

## DOCetaxel, CISplatin, 5-Fluorouracil and Radiotherapy

### INDICATIONS FOR USE:

INDICATION	ICD10	Regimen Code	Reimbursement Status
Induction treatment followed by radiotherapy of patients with Stage III or IV non-metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck	C76	00324a	Hospital

### TREATMENT:

The starting dose of the drugs detailed below may be adjusted downward by the prescribing clinician, using their independent medical judgement, to consider each patient's individual clinical circumstances.

DOCetaxel and CISplatin are administered on day 1 and 5-fluorouracil is administered on days 1-5 of a **21 day** cycle for 4 cycles unless disease progression or unacceptable toxicity develops.

Patients who do not have progressive disease and with adequate bone marrow function undergo radiotherapy within 4-7 weeks after completion of chemotherapy and thereafter considered for surgery.

Facilities to treat anaphylaxis MUST be present when the chemotherapy is administered on Day 1.

Admin. Order	Day	Drug	Dose	Route and Method of Administration	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1	1	DOCetaxel	75mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV infusion	<sup>a</sup> 250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 60min	Every 21 days for 4 cycles
2	1	<sup>b</sup> CISplatin	75mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV infusion	1000ml 0.9% NaCl over 2 hours	Every 21 days for 4 cycles
3	1-4	5-Fluorouracil	750mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day	IV infusion	1000ml 0.9% NaCl over 22 hours	Every 21 days for 4 cycles

<sup>a</sup> 75-185mg dose use 250mL infusion bag. For doses > 185mg use 500mL infusion bag  
Use non-PVC equipment

**<sup>b</sup> Pre and post hydration therapy required for CISplatin**

See local hospital policy recommendations.

Suggested prehydration for CISplatin therapy:

- Administer 10mmol magnesium sulphate (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) (+/-KCl 20mmol/L if indicated) in 1000 mL sodium chloride 0.9% over 60 minutes.

Administer CISplatin as described above

Post hydration: Administer 1000 ml 0.9% NaCl over 60mins

Mannitol 10% may be used to as per local policy to induce diuresis, although there is no conclusive evidence that this is required. The routine use of furosemide to increase urine flow is not recommended unless there is evidence of fluid overload (3, 4).

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## ELIGIBILITY:

- Indications as above
- Life expectancy > 3months
- ECOG status 0-1
- Adequate organ function; ANC > 1.5 x10<sup>9</sup> cells/L, platelets 100 x10<sup>9</sup>/L
- Unresectable tumour as determined by MDT

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to DOCEtaxel, CISplatin, 5-fluorouracil or any of the excipients
- Pregnancy
- Lactation
- Pre existing neuropathies ≥ grade 2
- Severe liver impairment
- Moderate/severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 60 mL/min)
- Significant hearing impairment/tinnitus
- Fluorouracil should not be given to patients who are known to be homozygotic for dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) or with known complete absence of DPD activity

## PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:

The treatment plan must be initiated by a Consultant Medical Oncologist.

## TESTS:

### Baseline tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile
- ECG (if patient has compromised cardiac function)
- Audiology and creatinine clearance if clinically indicated

### Regular tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile\* before each cycle  
\*See Adverse Effects/Regimen specific complications for guidelines regarding hepatic dysfunction with DOCEtaxel

### Disease monitoring:

Disease monitoring should be in line with the patient's treatment plan and any other test/s as directed by the supervising Consultant.

## DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

- Any dose modification should be discussed with a Consultant.

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**Haematological:**

**Table 1: Dose modifications for haematological toxicity**

ANC (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Platelets (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Dose of DOCEtaxel
≥ 1.5	and	>100	100%
<1.5	or	<100	Delay until recovery
		<25	Delay until recovery and reduce DOCEtaxel dose to 60mg/m <sup>2</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an episode of febrile neutropenia, prolonged neutropenia or neutropenic infection occurs despite G-CSF use, the DOCEtaxel dose should be reduced from 75 to 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>If subsequent episodes of complicated neutropenia occur the DOCEtaxel dose should be reduced from 60 to 45 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>In the pivotal SCCHN studies patients who experienced complicated neutropenia (including prolonged neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, or infection), it was recommended to use G-CSF to provide prophylactic coverage (e.g. day 6-15) in all subsequent cycles</li> </ul>			

**Renal and Hepatic Impairment:**

**Table 2: Dose modification of DOCEtaxel, CISplatin and 5-Fluorouracil in renal and hepatic impairment**

Drug	Renal Impairment		Hepatic Impairment					
DOCEtaxel	No data available in patients with severely impaired renal function		Serum Bilirubin		AST and/or ALT		ALP	Dose
					> 1.5 ULN	and	> 2.5 ULN	75 mg/m <sup>2</sup>
			>ULN	and/or	> 3.5 ULN (AST and ALT)	and	> 6 ULN	Stop treatment unless strictly indicated and should be discussed with a Consultant.
CISplatin	Cr Cl (ml/min)	Dose	No dose modifications for hepatic impairment					
	≥60	100%						
	45-59	75%						
	<45	Consider CARBOplatin-Clinical Decision						
5-Fluorouracil	Consider dose reduction in severe renal impairment only		Bilirubin (micromol/L)		AST	Dose		
			<85		<180	100%		
			>85	or	>180	Contraindicated		
			Clinical decision. Moderate hepatic impairment; reduce initial dose by 1/3. Severe hepatic impairment, reduce initial dose by 1/2.					

• ALP = Alkaline Phosphatase, ALT = Alanine Aminotransferase AST = Aspartate Aminotransferase ULN = Upper Limit of Normal

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**Table 3: Dose modification schedule based on adverse events**

Adverse reactions	Recommended dose modification
Grade 3 diarrhoea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> episode</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> episode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce 5-fluorouracil dose by 20%</li> <li>Reduce DOCetaxel dose by 20%</li> </ul>
Grade 4 diarrhoea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> episode</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> episode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce DOCetaxel and 5-fluorouracil dose by 20%</li> <li>Discontinue treatment</li> </ul>
Grade 3 stomatitis/mucositis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> episode</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> episode</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> episode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce 5-fluorouracil dose by 20%</li> <li>Stop 5-fluorouracil only, at all subsequent cycles</li> <li>Reduce DOCetaxel dose by 20%</li> </ul>
Grade 4 stomatitis/mucositis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> episode</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> episode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop 5-fluorouracil only, at all subsequent cycles</li> <li>Reduce DOCetaxel dose by 20%.</li> </ul>
Grade 3 skin reaction	Decrease dose of DOCetaxel to 60mg/m <sup>2</sup> . If the patient continues to experience these reactions at 60mg/m <sup>2</sup> , the treatment should be discontinued.
Grade >2 peripheral neuropathy	Decrease dose of DOCetaxel to 60mg/m <sup>2</sup> . If the patient continues to experience these reactions at 60mg/m <sup>2</sup> , the treatment should be discontinued. Consider dose reduction of CISplatin at discretion of prescribing consultant
Grade ≥ 2 PPE	Delay 5-fluorouracil until recovery to Grade ≤ 1 and reduce subsequent doses of 5-fluorouracil by 20%

**SUPPORTIVE CARE:**

**EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL:** High (Refer to local policy).

**PREMEDICATIONS:**

DOCetaxel

- Dexamethasone 8 mg PO twice daily for 3 days, starting one day prior to each DOCetaxel administration unless contraindicated. Patient must receive minimum of 3 doses pre-treatment
- Consideration may be given, at the discretion of the prescribing consultant, to the use of a single dose of dexamethasone 20mg IV immediately before chemotherapy where patients have missed taking the oral premedication dexamethasone as recommended by the manufacturer (5,6)**

CISplatin

- Hydration prior and post CISplatin administration (**Reference local policy or see recommendations above**).

**OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:**

Prophylactic G-CSF may be used to mitigate the risk of haematological toxicities. See comment above in dose modifications.

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## ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS

The adverse effects listed are not exhaustive. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for full details.

- **Neutropenia:** Most frequent adverse reaction. Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated appropriately. DOCEtaxel should be administered when the neutrophil count is  $> 1.5 \times 10^9$  cells/L.
- **Neutropenic Enterocolitis:** A number of cases of neutropenic enterocolitis have been reported in patients treated with DOCEtaxel in France (7). This is a known and rare side effect of DOCEtaxel which may affect up to one in 1,000 people.
- **Fluid Retention:** Dexamethasone premedication must be given to reduce the incidence and severity of fluid retention. It can also reduce the severity of the hypersensitivity reaction.
- **Hypersensitivity Reactions:** Patients should be observed closely for hypersensitivity reactions especially during the first and second infusions. Hypersensitivity reactions may occur within a few minutes following the initiation of the infusion of DOCEtaxel, thus facilities for the treatment of hypotension and bronchospasm should be available. If hypersensitivity reactions occur, minor symptoms such as flushing or localized cutaneous reactions do not require interruption of therapy. However, severe reactions, such as severe hypotension, bronchospasm or generalised rash/erythema require immediate discontinuation of DOCEtaxel and appropriate therapy. Patients who have developed severe hypersensitivity reactions should not be re-challenged with DOCEtaxel.
- **Extravasation:** DOCEtaxel causes pain and tissue necrosis if extravasated. **(Refer to local extravasation guidelines).**
- **Hepatic Dysfunction:** DOCEtaxel undergoes hepatic metabolism. Hepatic dysfunction (particularly elevated AST) may lead to increased toxicity and usually requires a dose reduction.
- **Renal toxicity:** Renal toxicity is common with CISplatin. Encourage oral hydration.
- **Ototoxicity and sensory neural damage** should be assessed by history prior to each cycle.
- **Myocardial ischaemia and angina:** Cardiotoxicity is a serious complication during treatment with fluorouracil. Patients, especially those with a prior history of cardiac disease or other risk factors, treated with fluorouracil, should be carefully monitored during therapy.
- **Dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) deficiency:** Rare, life-threatening toxicities such as stomatitis, mucositis, neutropenia, neurotoxicity and diarrhoea have been reported following administration of fluoropyrimidines (e.g. fluorouracil and capecitabine). Severe unexplained toxicities require investigation prior to continuing with treatment.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- Risk of drug interactions causing increased concentrations of DOCEtaxel with CYP3A inhibitors. Patients should also be counselled with regard to consumption of grapefruit juice.
- Risk of drug interactions causing decreased concentrations of DOCEtaxel with CYP3A inducers.
- Avoid concurrent use of CISplatin with nephrotoxic drugs (e.g. aminoglycosides, frusemide, NSAIDS) due to additive nephrotoxicity. If necessary, monitor renal function closely.
- Marked elevations of prothrombin time and INR have been reported in patients stabilized on warfarin therapy following initiation of fluorouracil regimes.
- Concurrent administration of fluorouracil and phenytoin may result in increased serum levels of phenytoin
- Caution should be taken when using fluorouracil in conjunction with medications which may affect dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase activity.
- Current drug interaction databases should be consulted for more information.

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## ATC CODE:

DOCetaxel	-	L01CD02
CISplatin	-	L01XA01
5-Fluorouracil	-	L01BC02

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Version	Date	Amendment	Approved By
1	03/05/2016		Prof Maccon Keane
2	02/05/2018	Updated with revised CISplatin hydration regimen recommendations Clarified use of G-CSF and updated re neutropenic enterocolitis	Prof Maccon Keane
3	09/10/2019	Updated exclusion criteria Amended recommended Dose modification for haematological toxicity	Prof Maccon Keane
4	13/05/2020	Updated exclusion criteria Dosing in renal and hepatic impairment for DOCEtaxel updated	Prof Maccon Keane

Comments and feedback welcome at [oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie](mailto:oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie).

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