High dose Methotrexate, high dose Cytarabine, riTUXimab and Thiotepa (MATRix) Therapy

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATION</th>
<th>ICD10</th>
<th>Regimen Code</th>
<th>*Reimbursement Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of primary CNS lymphoma</td>
<td>C85</td>
<td>00508a</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of CNS relapse of a high grade systemic lymphoma¹</td>
<td>C85</td>
<td>00508b</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If the reimbursement status is not defined*, the indication has yet to be assessed through the formal HSE reimbursement process.

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.

Treatment is administered according to the treatment table below.

A cycle may be repeated every 21 days for up to 4 cycles.

Patients with responsive or stable disease may be considered for further treatment with autologous stem cell transplantation or whole-brain radiotherapy.

Note:

- Hydration, alkalinisation and folinic acid therapy are required with high dose methotrexate (See Table Below)

Facilities to treat anaphylaxis MUST be present when therapy is administered.
### NCCP Chemotherapy Regimen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Diluent &amp; Rate</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>riTUXimab</td>
<td>375mg/m²</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>500ml 0.9% sodium chloride at a maximum rate of 400mg/hr¹,³,⁴</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>500mg/m²</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>100ml 0.9% NaCl over 15min</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>3000mg/m²</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>500ml 0.9% NaCl over 3 hours</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Folinic acid</td>
<td>15mg/m²</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>100ml 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes. Commence 24 hours after the start of methotrexate infusion and repeat every 6 hours until methotrexate level is less than 0.05micromol/L. (See Table 1 below for calculation of dose of Folinic acid based on Methotrexate levels)</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 and 4</td>
<td>Cytarabine</td>
<td>2000mg/m² AM</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>250ml 0.9% NaCl over 1 hour</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 and 4</td>
<td>Cytarabine</td>
<td>2000mg/m² PM</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>250ml 0.9% NaCl over 1 hour</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thiotepa</td>
<td>30mg/m²</td>
<td>IV infusion</td>
<td>100ml 0.9% NaCl over 30min via a 0.22micrometre filter</td>
<td>Every 21 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### When used for priming

- **6-14** (9 days)  
  - G-CSF (round to nearest whole syringe)  
  - 5mcg/kg

#### When not used for priming consider the use of G-CSF 5mcg/kg daily from day 9 onwards until neutrophil recovery (Consultant decision)

- The recommended initial rate for infusion is 50 mg/hr; after the first 30 minutes, it can be escalated in 50 mg/hr increments every 30 minutes, to a maximum of 400 mg/hr.
- Subsequent infusions can be infused at an initial rate of 100 mg/hr, and increased by 100 mg/hr increments at 30 minute intervals, to a maximum of 400 mg/hr.
- Development of an allergic reaction may require a slower infusion rate. See Hypersensitivity/Infusion reactions under Adverse Effects/Regimen Specific Complications below.
- Any deviation from the advised infusion rate should be noted in local policies.

- riTUXimab should be diluted to a final concentration of 1-4mg/ml.

- **Rapid rate infusion schedule**¹ See NCCP guidance [here](http://www.hse.ie/NCCPchemoRegimen)

  If patients did not experience a serious infusion related reaction with their first or subsequent infusions of a dose of riTUXimab administered over the standard infusion schedule, a more rapid infusion can be administered for second and subsequent infusions using the same concentration as in previous infusions. Initiate at a rate of 20% of the total dose for the first 30 minutes and then 80% of the dose for the next 60 minutes (total infusion time of 90 minutes).

  If the more rapid infusion is tolerated, this infusion schedule can be used when administering subsequent infusions.

- Patients who have clinically significant cardiovascular disease, including arrhythmias, or previous serious infusion reactions to any prior biologic therapy or to riTUXimab, should not be administered the more rapid infusion.

- **Thiotepa**: See below for suggested hydration, alkalinisation regimen to be followed with methotrexate or Refer to local policy GFR to be calculated prior to administration of methotrexate infusion.

  Adequate hydration and urine output are essential for the rapid clearance of methotrexate.

  - **Hydration** with at least 3L/m²/24 hours of IV fluids throughout treatment is essential until the methotrexate level is <0.05x 10⁻⁶M
  - Urine pH should be ≥ 7.0 prior to commencement and during the methotrexate and folinic acid rescue. Check urine pH at regular intervals

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Review: 07/11/2020  
Version number: 1

**Tumour Group: Lymphoma**

**NCCP Regimen Code: 00508**

**IHS /ISMO Contributor: Dr Kamal Fadalla, Prof Maccon Keane**

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Table1: Table for the Calculation of Folinic Acid Rescue on the basis of Methotrexate Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time after starting Methotrexate infusion</th>
<th>Methotrexate Plasma Concentration micromol/L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 hours</td>
<td>No folinic Acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 hours</td>
<td>No folinic Acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 hours</td>
<td>No folinic Acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120 hours</td>
<td>No folinic Acid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If serum creatinine increases by more than 50% above baseline at 24 hours increase folinic acid rescue. At time points over 120 hours continue folinic acid as recommended for 120 hours

ELIGIBILITY:
- Indication as above
- ECOG 0-3 (age 18-65 years)
- ECOG 0-2 (age 66-70 years)
- Cr Cl > 50ml/min recommended before administration of high-dose methotrexate

EXCLUSIONS:
- Hypersensitivity to riTUXimab, methotrexate, cytarabine, thiotepa or any of the excipients

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:
The treatment plan must be initiated by a Consultant Haematologist working in the area of haematological malignancies.

TESTS:
- Baseline tests:
  - FBC, renal and liver profile
  - LDH, Uric acid

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- ECG and /or ECHO
- Pulmonary Function Tests
- CT-TAP or PET scan
- MRI brain
- Testicular ultrasound
- Bone marrow aspirate and biopsy
- CSF analysis (flow)
- MMSE
- Pregnancy test
- Virology screen -Hepatitis B (HBsAg, HBcoreAb), Hepatitis C, HIV.

*Hepatitis B reactivation: See Adverse events/ Regimen specific complications

Regular tests:
- FBC, renal and liver profile
- LDH
- Cardiac function if clinically indicated

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.

Haematological:
Table 2: Dose modification in haematological toxicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANC (x10⁹/L)</th>
<th>Platelets (x10⁹/L)</th>
<th>Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1.5 and</td>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1.5 and/or</td>
<td>&lt;100</td>
<td>Clinical decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renal and Hepatic Impairment:
Table 3: Dose modifications in renal and hepatic impairment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Renal impairment</th>
<th>Hepatic impairment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RITUXimab</td>
<td>No dose adjustment necessary</td>
<td>No dose adjustment necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>Cr Cl (ml/min)</td>
<td>Dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>&lt;50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-80</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>51-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-60</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>&gt;85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>Clinical Decision</td>
<td>Contraindicated in severe hepatic impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30</td>
<td>Contraindicated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytarabine</td>
<td>GFR (ml/min)</td>
<td>Dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Dose 1g/m²</td>
<td>&gt;60</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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NCCP Chemotherapy Regimen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Toxicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30</td>
<td>Contraindicated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thiotepa
As thiotepa and its metabolites are poorly excreted in the urine, dose modification is not recommended in patients with mild or moderate renal insufficiency. However, caution is recommended.

Since thiotepa is mainly metabolized through the liver, caution needs to be exercised when thiotepa is used in patients with preexisting impairment of liver function, especially in those with severe hepatic impairment. Dose modification is not recommended for transient alterations of hepatic parameters.

Table 4: Dose modification schedule of riTUXimab based on adverse events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse reactions</th>
<th>Discontinue</th>
<th>Recommended dose modification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe infusion related reaction (e.g. dyspnoea, bronchospasm, hypotension or hypoxia) First occurrence</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td>Interrupt infusion immediately. Evaluate for cytokine release/tumour lysis syndrome (appropriate laboratory tests) and pulmonary infiltration (chest x-ray). Infusion may be restarted on resolution of all symptoms, normalisation of laboratory values and chest x-ray findings at no more than one-half the previous rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second occurrence</td>
<td>Consider discontinuing treatment</td>
<td>Consider coverage with steroids for those who are not already receiving steroids.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild or moderate infusion-related reaction</td>
<td>Reduce rate of infusion. The infusion rate may be increased upon improvement of symptoms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUPPORTIVE CARE:

EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL: Moderate – High (Refer to local policy).

PREMEDICATIONS:
Premedication consisting of an anti-pyretic and an anti-histamine should always be administered before each infusion of riTUXimab. Consider the inclusion of a glucocorticoid in patients not receiving glucocorticoid containing chemotherapy.

Table 5: Suggested pre-medications prior to riTUXimab infusion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drugs</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paracetamol</td>
<td>1g</td>
<td>PO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorpheniramine</td>
<td>10mg</td>
<td>IV bolus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Hydrocortisone 100mg IV bolus (60 minutes before rituximab)

To prevent a chemical induced conjunctivitis developing with cytarabine, prednisolone eye drops (e.g. Pred Mild) I-2 drops per eye 4 hourly during waking hours prior to cytarabine and continuation for up to 5 days post treatment should be considered.

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:
- Tumour lysis syndrome prophylaxis (Refer to local policy)
- Proton pump inhibitor (Refer to local policy)
- PJP prophylaxis (Refer to local policy) Consider interactions between methotrexate and co-trimoxazole.
  - If co-trimoxazole cannot be avoided, cease PJP prophylaxis at least 48 hours prior to methotrexate infusion and recommence upon neutrophil recovery and clearance of methotrexate.
- Anti-viral prophylaxis (Refer to local policy)
- Anti-fungal prophylaxis (Refer to local policy)
- Patients should be offered fertility advice prior to treatment, because of the possibility of irreversible infertility.

ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS
The adverse effects listed are not exhaustive. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for full details.

- **High dose methotrexate**: Monitoring of methotrexate levels is essential as delayed methotrexate excretion is potentially an emergency situation. Renal function must be evaluated prior to treatment and patients with creatinine clearance less than 50 mL/min should not receive high dose methotrexate. Methotrexate exits slowly from third space compartments (e.g. pleural effusions or ascites), resulting in a prolonged terminal plasma half-life and unexpected toxicity. In patients with significant third space accumulations, it is advisable to evacuate the fluid before treatment and to monitor plasma methotrexate levels.
- **Cardiac Disorders**: Patients with a history of cardiac disease and/or cardiotoxic chemotherapy should be monitored closely while on rituximab and thiotepa.
- **Myelosuppression**: Cytarabine and thiotepa are potent bone marrow suppressants and patients need daily counts and appropriate support until count recovery. Patients receiving this drug must be under close medical supervision.
- **Neurotoxicity**: This may occur in patients treated with high dose cytarabine. Assess cerebellar function prior to each cytarabine dose. The risk of neurotoxicity is enhanced in the presence of renal impairment. Ensure that dose of cytarabine is adjusted in renal impairment (Ref Table 4).
- **Cytarabine syndrome**: Treatment with cytarabine may cause a 'Cytarabine Syndrome' characterised by flu-like symptoms, fever, skin rash and occasionally chest pain.
- **Cutaneous Effects of Thiotepa**: Thiotepa is partly excreted through the skin (as sweat) and therefore thiotepa associated skin toxicity is thought to be caused by concentration of thiotepa in the skin. It is therefore important to protect both the patient and health professionals from exposure.
- **Hepatitis B Reactivation**: All lymphoma patients should be tested for both HBsAg and HBcoreAb.
as per local policy. If either test is positive, such patients should be treated with lamivudine 100 mg/day orally, for the entire duration of chemotherapy and for six months afterwards. Such patients should also be monitored with frequent liver function tests and hepatitis B virus DNA at least every two months. If the hepatitis B virus DNA level rises during this monitoring, management should be reviewed with an appropriate specialist with experience managing hepatitis and consideration given to stopping chemotherapy.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

- **Antihypertensives:** Additive effect of hypotension during riTUXimab infusion. Consider withholding antihypertensives 12 hours before and during riTUXimab infusion.
- **Drugs which compromise renal function e.g. aminoglycosides and cisplatin** can decrease clearance of methotrexate and lead to systemic toxicity.
- **Concurrent use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and penicillins** reduces renal clearance of methotrexate and these drugs should be avoided when using high dose methotrexate. Cotrimoxazole and ciprofloxacin also interact.
- **Current drug interaction databases** should be consulted for more information.

**ATC CODE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>ATC Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cytarabine</td>
<td>L01BC01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riTUXimab</td>
<td>L01XC02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate</td>
<td>L01BA01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES:**

NCCP Chemotherapy Regimen


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>07/11/2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Kamal Fadalla, Prof Maccon Keane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments and feedback welcome at oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie.

1 The is an unlicensed indication for this regimen in Ireland. Patient’s should be informed of this and consented to treatment in line with the hospital’s policy on the use of unlicensed medication and unlicensed or “off label” indications. Prescribers should be fully aware of their responsibility in communicating any relevant information to the patient and also ensuring that the unlicensed or “off label” means of administration has been acknowledged by the hospital’s Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, or equivalent, in line with hospital policy.

2 ODMS – Oncology Drug Management System
CDS – Community Drug Schemes (CDS) including the High Tech arrangements of the PCRS community drug schemes
Further details on the Cancer Drug Management Programme is available at; http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/proinfo/medonc/cdmp/

3 The rapid infusion is an unlicensed means of administration of riTUXimab for the indications described above, in Ireland. Patient’s should be informed of this and consented to treatment in line with the hospital’s policy on the use of unlicensed medication and unlicensed or “off label” indications. Prescribers should be fully aware of their responsibility in communicating any relevant information to the patient and also ensuring that the unlicensed or “off label” means of administration has been acknowledged by the hospital’s Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, or equivalent, in line with hospital policy.