Bortezomib and dexAMETHasone Therapy

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

INDICATION	ICD10	Regimen Code	Reimbursement Status
Treatment of adult patients with progressive multiple myeloma who have received at least one prior therapy	C90	00270a	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 patients individual clinical circumstances.

Treatment with bortezomib is administered twice weekly for two weeks on days 1, 4, 8 and 11 followed by a 10 day rest period on days 12-21. This 3-week period is considered a treatment cycle.

dexAMETHasone is administered orally on days 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of the bortezomib treatment cycle.

Patients achieving a response or a stable disease after 4 cycles of this combination therapy can continue to receive the same combination for a maximum of 4 additional cycles.

Day	Drug	Dose	Route
1, 4, 8, 11	Bortezomib[a, b]	1.3mg/m^2	SC[c, d] (abdomen or thigh)
1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12	dexAMETHasone	20mg once daily	PO[e]
[a] At least 72 hours should elapse between consecutive doses of bortezomib.			
[b] Bortezomib is a proteasome inhibitor and is neurotoxic. Refer to NCCP Guidance on the Safe Use of Neurotoxic drugs (including Vinca Alkaloids) in the treatment of cancer			
[c] Note: In individual cases where approved by Consultant bortezomib may be administered as IV bolus over 3-5 seconds through a peripheral or central intravenous catheter followed by a flush with 0.9% NaCl. Note the concentration of bortezomib solution should be 1mg/ml when administered via the IV route.			
[d] The solution should be injected subcutaneously, at a 45-90^o angle. Injection sites should be rotated for successive injections. If local injection site reactions occur, either a less concentrated solution may be administered SC or a switch to IV injection is recommended.			
[e] dexAMETHasone to be taken once daily in the morning with food.			

ELIGIBILITY:

- Indication as above
- ECOG 0-2

- Patients with pre-existing severe neuropathy should be treated with bortezomib only after careful risk/benefit assessment. Caution should be exercised as further treatment may result in severe prolonged neuropathy.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to bortezomib, boron, dexAMETHasone or any of the excipients.
- Acute diffuse infiltrative pulmonary and pericardial disease.

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:

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

TESTS:

Baseline tests:

- FBC, renal, liver and bone profile
- Blood pressure
- Blood glucose* if being treated with oral hypoglycaemics (*See Drug Interactions)
- Assessment of peripheral neuropathy status
- Virology screen - Hepatitis B (HBsAg, HBcoreAb), Hepatitis C and HIV
  *See Adverse Effects/Regimen Specific Complications re Hepatitis B Reactivation

Regular tests:

- FBC; monitor platelet count **at a minimum** of day 1 and day 11 each cycle.
- Renal, liver and bone profile
- Blood pressure
- Assessment of peripheral neuropathy status
- Blood glucose* if being treated with oral hypoglycaemics (*See Drug Interactions)

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.

Renal impairment:

Table 1: Dose Modification of Bortezomib in Renal Impairment

Renal Impairment	Dose modification
Mild to Moderate CrCl >20ml/min/1.73m^2	No dose adjustment required.
Severe CrCl <20ml/min/1.73m^2	It is unknown if the pharmacokinetics of bortezomib are influenced in severe renal impairment (CrCL < 20ml/min/1.73 m^2) not undergoing dialysis. Dialysis may reduce bortezomib concentrations; it should be administered after the dialysis procedure.

Hepatic impairment:

Table 2: Dose Modification of Bortezomib in Hepatic Impairment

Grade*	Bilirubin Level	SGOT (AST level)	Modification of starting dose
Mild	≤1 x ULN	> ULN	None
	>1 - 1.5 x ULN	Any	None
Moderate	>1.5 - 3 x ULN	Any	Reduce dose to 0.7mg/m^2 in the first treatment cycle. Consider dose escalation to 1mg/m^2 or further dose reduction to 0.5mg/m^2 in subsequent cycles based on patient tolerability.
Severe	>3 x ULN	Any	
*Based on NCI Organ Dysfunction Working Group classification for categorising hepatic impairment (mild, moderate, severe).			
Abbreviations: SGOT=serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase; AST=aspartate aminotransferase; ULN=upper limit of the normal range.			

Dose reductions for other toxicities:

Table 3: Dose Modification of Bortezomib for Adverse Events

Adverse reactions	Recommended dose modification
Grade 4 Haematological toxicity (ANC < 0.5 x10^9/L) Grade 3 Non-haematological toxicity	Withhold treatment until symptoms of the toxicity have resolved. Treatment may be reinitiated at a 25% reduced dose (1.3mg/m^2 reduced to 1mg/m^2; 1mg/m^2 reduced to 0.7mg/m^2). If the toxicity is not resolved or if it recurs at the lowest dose, discontinuation of bortezomib must be considered unless the benefit of treatment clearly outweighs the risk.
New or worsening pulmonary symptoms (e.g. cough, dyspnoea)	Withhold treatment. Prompt diagnostic evaluation required and benefit/risk ratio should be considered prior to continuing bortezomib therapy.
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	Discontinue treatment.

Neuropathic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy:

Table 4: Dose modifications for Bortezomib Related Neuropathy

Severity of neuropathy	Dose Modification
Grade 1 (asymptomatic; loss of deep tendon reflexes or paresthesia) with no pain or loss of function	None
Grade 1 with pain or Grade 2	Reduce dose to 1 mg/m^2 *or* Change treatment schedule to 1.3mg/m^2 once every week
Grade 2 with pain or Grade 3	Withhold treatment until symptoms of toxicity have resolved. When toxicity resolves re-initiate treatment and reduce dose to 0.7mg/m^2 once every week
Grade 4 and/or severe autonomic neuropathy	Discontinue treatment
Grade 1: Asymptomatic; clinical or diagnostic observations only Grade 2: Moderate symptoms; limiting instrumental Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Grade 3: Severe symptoms; limiting self-care ADL Grade 4: Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated *Grading based on NCI Common Toxicity Criteria CTCAE v 4*	

SUPPORTIVE CARE:

EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL:

- As outlined in NCCP Classification Document for Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Induced Nausea and Vomiting - Available on the NCCP website

Low (**Refer to local policy**).

For information:
Within NCIS regimens, antiemetics have been standardised by Medical Oncologists and Haemato-oncologists and information is available in the following documents:

- NCCP Supportive Care Antiemetic Medicines for **Inclusion in NCIS** (Medical Oncology) - Available on the NCCP website
- NCCP Supportive Care Antiemetic Medicines for **Inclusion in NCIS** (Haemato-oncology) - Available on the NCCP website

PREMEDICATIONS: Not usually required. Ensure patient remains well hydrated during treatment.

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:

- Bisphosphonates should be considered in all patients with myeloma related bone disease**.**
- H_2-antagonist or PPI in patients receiving dexAMETHasone therapy (**Refer to local policy**).
- Low dose antiviral prophylaxis (**Refer to local policy**).
- Consider PJP prophylaxis (**Refer to local policy**).
- Tumour Lysis Syndrome prophylaxis (**Refer to local policy**).

ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS:

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

full details.

- **Peripheral Neuropathy:** Patients with pre-existing severe neuropathy may be treated with bortezomib only after careful risk/benefit assessment.
- **Hypotension**: Treatment is commonly associated with orthostatic/postural hypotension. A minority of patients with orthostatic hypotension experienced syncopal events. Caution is advised when treating patients with a history of syncope receiving medicinal products known to be associated with hypotension; or who are dehydrated due to recurrent diarrhoea or vomiting.
- **Gastrointestinal toxicity**: Gastrointestinal toxicity, including nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting and constipation are very common with bortezomib treatment.
- **Hepatic Impairment:** Bortezomib is metabolised by liver enzymes. Bortezomib exposure is increased in patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment; these patients should be treated with bortezomib at reduced doses and closely monitored for toxicities.
- **Haematological toxicity:** Gastrointestinal and intracerebral haemorrhage have been reported in association with bortezomib treatment. Therefore, platelet counts should be monitored prior to each dose of bortezomib and bortezomib should be withheld when the platelet count is < 25 x 10^9/L. Potential benefit of treatment should be carefully weighed against the risks, particularly in case of moderate to severe thrombocytopenia and risk factors for bleeding. Complete blood counts with differential and including platelet counts should be frequently monitored throughout treatment with bortezomib. Platelet transfusion should be considered when clinically appropriate.
- **Seizures:** Seizures have been uncommonly reported in patients without previous history of seizures or epilepsy. Special care is required when treating patients with any risk factors for seizures.
- **Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES):** In patients developing PRES, treatment with bortezomib should be discontinued.
- **Heart Failure**: Acute development or exacerbation of congestive heart failure, and/or new onset of decreased left ventricular ejection fraction has been reported during bortezomib treatment. Patients with risk factors for or existing heart disease should be closely monitored.
- **Renal Impairment:** Patients with renal impairment should be monitored closely.
- **Steroid use:** Steroid use is associated with numerous side effects including insomnia, gastric irritation, increased blood sugar levels, mood changes, increased appetite, bruising, skin fragility and osteoporosis (long term use).
- **Hepatitis B Reactivation:** Patients should be tested for both HBsAg and HBcoreAb as per local policy. If either test is positive, such patients should be treated with anti-viral therapy. (Refer to local infectious disease policy). These patients should be considered for assessment by hepatology.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- Additive hypotensive effect with anti-hypertensives and bortezomib. Blood pressure should be monitored and ensure patient is well hydrated prior to bortezomib dose. Adjustment of anti-hypertensives may be required.
- During clinical trials, hypoglycemia was uncommonly reported and hyperglycemia commonly reported in diabetic patients receiving oral hypoglycemics. Patients on oral anti-diabetic agents receiving bortezomib treatment may require close monitoring of their blood glucose levels and adjustment of the dose of their anti-diabetic medications.

- Patients should be closely monitored when given bortezomib in combination with potent CYP3A4-inhibitors.
- Caution should be exercised when bortezomib is combined with CYP3A4- or CYP2C19 substrates.
- Current drug interaction databases should be consulted for more information.

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Version	Date	Amendment	Approved By
1	05/04/2017		Dr Patrick Hayden Dr John Quinn
2	19/06/2019	Updated to new template Inclusion of standard wording on Hep B reactivation Update adverse events to include effects of steroids	Dr Patrick Hayden Dr John Quinn
3	01/11/2021	Reviewed. Amended treatment table. Updated Exclusion criteria. Updated standard wording on Hep B reactivation. Updated adverse effects section to include gastrointestinal toxicity.	Dr Patrick Hayden Dr John Quinn
3a	27/11/2024	Updated emetogenic potential section with standard wording.	NCCP

Comments and feedback welcome at oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie.