

Chemotherapy Protocol

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

CARBOPLATIN (AUC4)-GEMCITABINE (day 1, 8)

Regimen

- Ovary-Carboplatin (AUC4)-Gemcitabine (1, 8)

Indication

- Recurrent platinum sensitive ovarian cancer where re-treatment with paclitaxel is inappropriate
- WHO performance status 0, 1, 2

Toxicity

Drug	Adverse Effect
Carboplatin	Thrombocytopenia, peripheral neuropathy, nephrotoxicity at high doses, electrolyte disturbances
Gemcitabine	Peripheral oedema, diarrhoea, constipation, rash, respiratory problems, influenza like symptoms, radiosensitising

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

Monitoring

Drugs

- FBC, LFTs and U&Es prior to day each cycle
- EDTA or calculated creatinine clearance prior to each cycle
- CA125 prior to each cycle

Dose Modifications

The dose modifications listed are for haematological, liver and renal function and drug specific toxicities only. Dose adjustments may be necessary for other toxicities as well.

In principle all dose reductions due to adverse drug reactions should not be re-escalated in subsequent cycles without consultant approval. It is also a general rule for chemotherapy that if a third dose reduction is necessary treatment should be stopped.

Please discuss all dose reductions / delays with the relevant consultant before prescribing, if appropriate. The approach may be different depending on the clinical circumstances.

Haematological

Consider blood transfusion if patient symptomatic of anaemia or has a haemoglobin of less than 8g/dL.

Prior to each cycle the following criteria must be met;

Criteria	Eligible Level
Neutrophil	equal to or more than $1 \times 10^9/L$
Platelets	equal to or more than $100 \times 10^9/L$

Day 1

Neutrophils ($\times 10^9/L$)	Dose Modifications (carboplatin and gemcitabine)
1 or greater	100%
less than 1	Delay one week. If, at this point, the counts are $1 \times 10^9/L$ or greater then continue with full dose. If the counts are still less than $1 \times 10^9/L$ delay a further week and if the counts recover at this point continue with 80% dose of both agents. Otherwise consider stopping treatment.
Platelets ($\times 10^9/L$)	Dose Modifications (carboplatin and gemcitabine)
100 or greater	100%
50-99	Delay one week. If, at this point the platelets are $100 \times 10^9/L$ or greater continue with full dose. If the platelets are still less than $100 \times 10^9/L$ then delay a further week. If the counts recover at this point continue with 80% dose of both agents. Otherwise consider stopping treatment.
less than 50	Delay until recovery to $100 \times 10^9/L$ or greater then continue with 50% doses.

Day 8

Neutrophils ($\times 10^9/L$)	Dose Modifications (gemcitabine)
1 or greater	100%
0.5-1	80%
less than 0.5	Omit
Platelets ($\times 10^9/L$)	Dose Modifications (gemcitabine)
100 or greater	100%
50-100	80%
less than 50	Omit

Hepatic Impairment

Drug	Bilirubin µmol/L	AST/ALT units	Dose
Carboplatin	N/A	N/A	No dose adjustment needed
Gemcitabine	30 or greater	N/A	Initiate treatment at 800mg/m ²

Renal Impairment

Drug	Creatinine Clearance (ml/min)	Dose (% of original dose)
Carboplatin*	less than 20	Omit
Gemcitabine	less than 30	Consider dose reduction

* Significant changes in GFR of more than 10% may require dose adjustment.

Other

Dose reductions or interruptions in therapy are not necessary for those toxicities that are considered unlikely to be serious or life threatening. For example, alopecia, altered taste or nail changes.

For all other non-haematological NCI-CTC grade 3 and above toxicities delay treatment until the adverse effect has resolved to NCI-CTC grade 1 or below. The dose of the causative agent should then be reduced to 80% of the original dose or discontinued as appropriate.

Regimen

The starting dose of carboplatin AUC 4 is used with calculated GFR. AUC 3 may be considered with EDTA clearance, seek advice from the appropriate consultant before prescribing. The recommended maximum dose when using a calculated creatinine clearance at AUC 4 is 600mg (creatinine clearance 125ml/min). This is not a dose included in the national dose banding table. The maximum dose has been set at 630mg in ARIA. Please check if this dose is appropriate. If you have an obese patient or an individual with a calculated creatinine clearance above 125ml/min please seek advice.

It should be noted that the dose of carboplatin may need to be altered if there is a change (improvement or reduction) in renal function of more than 10% from the previous cycle

21 day cycle for 6 cycles

Drug	Dose	Days	Administration
Carboplatin	AUC 4 (max dose)	1	Intravenous infusion in 500ml Glucose 5% over 60 minutes
Gemcitabine	1000mg/m ²	1, 8	Intravenous infusion in 250ml sodium chloride 0.9% over 30 minutes

[Dose Information](#)

- For elderly/frail patients or those with poor performance status consider using carboplatin AUC 3 and/or gemcitabine 750mg/m²
- Carboplatin will be dose banded in accordance with the national dose bands (10mg/ml)
- The maximum dose of carboplatin for AUC 4 is 600mg. This will be set as 630mg in ARIA to comply with national dose bands.
- It should be noted that the dose of carboplatin may need to be altered if there is a change (improvement or reduction) in renal function of more than 10% from the previous cycle.
- Gemcitabine will be dose banded according to the CSCCN agreed bands.

[Administration Information](#)

Extravasation

- Carboplatin – irritant
- Gemcitabine - neutral

[Additional Therapy](#)

- Antiemetics

Day one

15-30 minutes prior to chemotherapy

- dexamethasone 8mg oral or intravenous
- ondansetron 8mg oral or intravenous

As take home medication

- dexamethasone 4mg oral twice a day for 3 days
- metoclopramide 10mg oral three times a day as required

Day 8

15-30 minutes prior to chemotherapy

- Metoclopramide 10mg oral or intravenous
- Gastric protection with a proton pump inhibitor or a H₂ antagonist may be considered in patients considered at high risk of GI ulceration or bleed.

References

1. Pfisterer J, Plante M, Vergote I et al. Gemcitabine Plus Carboplatin Compared With Carboplatin in Patients With Platinum-Sensitive Recurrent Ovarian Cancer: An Intergroup Trial of the AGO-OVAR, the NCIC CTG, and the EORTC GCG. *J Clin Oncol* 2006; 24 (29): 4699-4707
2. Papadimitriou C, Fountzilas G, Aravantinos G et al. Second-line chemotherapy with gemcitabine and carboplatin in paclitaxel-pretreated, platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer patients: A Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group Study. *Gynecologic Oncology* 2004; 92; 152-159

REGIMEN SUMMARY

Carboplatin (AUC4)-Gemcitabine (1, 8)

Day 1

1. Dexamethasone 8mg oral or intravenous
Administration Instructions
This may be given as dexamethasone 8mg (or equivalent dose) intravenous
2. Ondansetron 8mg oral or intravenous
Administration Instructions
This may be given as ondansetron 8mg intravenous
3. Gemcitabine 1000mg/m² in 250ml sodium chloride 0.9% intravenous infusion over 30 minutes.
4. Warning - Carboplatin Maximum Dose
Administration Instructions
The dose of carboplatin is capped at a creatinine clearance of 125ml/min. The internationally recommended maximum dose of carboplatin for AUC 4 is 600mg. The national dose bands do not contain this dose so the cap has been set at 630mg in ARIA. Please check this dose is appropriate for your patient.
5. Carboplatin AUC 4 intravenous infusion in 500ml glucose 5% over 60 minutes
Administration Instructions
The dose of carboplatin is capped at a creatinine clearance of 125ml/min. The internationally recommended maximum dose of carboplatin for AUC 4 is 600mg. The national dose bands do not contain this dose so the cap has been set at 630mg in ARIA. Please check this dose is appropriate for your patient

Take Home Medicines (day 1 only)

6. Dexamethasone 4mg oral twice a day for 3 days starting on day 2 of the cycle
Administration Instructions
Take 4mg twice a day (morning and lunch) for 3 days starting on day 2 of the cycle
7. Metoclopramide 10mg oral three times a day for three days and then 10mg three times a day when required for nausea
Administration Instructions
Please supply 28x10mg tablets or an original pack as appropriate

Day 8

8. Metoclopramide 10mg oral or intravenous
Administration Instructions
This may be given as metoclopramide 10mg
9. Gemcitabine 1000mg/m² in 250ml sodium chloride 0.9% intravenous infusion over 30 minutes.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Amendment	Written By	Approved By
1.2	Aug 2022	Carboplatin max dose information added. Carboplatin national dose bands Coding removed Warning added to summary Administration Instructions added to summary	Dr Deborah Wright Pharmacist	Donna Kimber Pharmacy Technician
1.1	April 2014	Carboplatin maximum dose added Bolus removed from intravenous bolus Metoclopramide dose changed Antiemetic start clarified OPCS codes updated	Dr Deborah Wright Pharmacist	Donna Kimber Pharmacy Technician
1	Aug 2013	None	Rebecca Wills Pharmacist Dr Deborah Wright Pharmacist	Dr Clare Green Consultant Medical Oncologist Dr Cheng Yeoh Consultant Medical Oncologist

This chemotherapy protocol has been developed as part of the chemotherapy electronic prescribing project. This was and remains a collaborative project that originated from the former CSCCN. These documents have been approved on behalf of the following Trusts;

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 NHS Isle of Wight
 Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
 Salisbury Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
 Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

All actions have been taken to ensure these protocols are correct. However, no responsibility can be taken for errors which occur as a result of following these guidelines.