



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: LYCHPBV

Other Names: Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, prednisone and brentuximab vedotin

C	Cyclophosphamide (also known as PROCYTOX®)
H	Doxorubicin (also known as ADRIAMYCIN®)
P	Prednisone (also known as DELTASONE®)
BV	Brentuximab Vedotin (also known as ADCETRIS®)

ABOUT THIS TREATMENT

What is this treatment used for?

- Cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone and brentuximab-vedotin are drugs used to kill lymphoma cells.

INTENDED BENEFITS

- This therapy is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of lymphoma cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay the onset of new symptoms.

TREATMENT PLAN:

- Your treatment plan consists of several (up to 6) chemotherapy cycles. Each cycle is repeated every 3 weeks (21 days). For each cycle you will have three chemotherapy drugs given as an infusion, plus a drug called prednisone taken as a pill by mouth.
- You will receive all drugs on treatment day. Your treatment will be about 1½ hours long. You will take the oral medication, prednisone, daily for the first five days of each cycle starting the day of chemotherapy.
- You will have a blood test and an appointment with your doctor prior to each scheduled chemotherapy treatment to assess how you are tolerating it.

How are these drugs given?

- Four drugs (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone and brentuximab vedotin) will be given at each cycle. All drugs, except the prednisone, are given by injection into a vein (IV).
- You will be given an oral medication (prednisone) to start on Day 1= day of chemotherapy, and you will need to take this daily for a total of 5 days (Days 1-5). Pick this up at the pharmacy in BC Cancer before or after your treatment.

- You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea pills to help prevent nausea and vomiting. Fill this prescription at your community pharmacy and bring it to your chemotherapy appointments.
- You will also be given a prescription for filgrastim (also known as G-CSF, granulocyte colony stimulating factor) to improve your white blood cell count. It is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneous, SC) daily for 5 days starting on day 7 (Day 1=day of chemotherapy). Your nurse will teach you and/or a family member how to give a SC injection. The filgrastim prescription is filled at your community pharmacy and, since it is not commonly available, your pharmacy may require 1-2 days to obtain the drug.
- A blood test will be taken prior to each cycle of treatment. The dose of chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood tests and/or other side effects.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Bring your anti-nausea drugs with you to take before each IV treatment. The nurse will tell you when to take your pills. You may also need to take anti-nausea drugs at home after the chemotherapy. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.
- Call your cancer doctor immediately (day or night) at the first sign of any infection but especially if you have a fever over 38°C or 100°F.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs. Other drugs such as barbiturates, digoxin (LANOXIN®), ciprofloxacin (CIPRO®) and similar antibiotics, phenytoin (DILANTIN®), carbamazepine (TEGRETOL®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®) and similar antibiotics, and warfarin (COUMADIN®), may interact with your chemotherapy.
- **Drink** 8-12 cups of liquid a day on the day of your treatment and the day after your treatment. **Empty your bladder** (pass urine) every 2 hours while you are awake and at bedtime for at least 24 hours after your treatment. Your doctor may also tell you to get up in the night to empty your bladder. This helps prevent bladder and kidney problems.
- Avoid grapefruit juice or grapefruit for 48 hours before, and on the day of your treatment
- You may drink small amounts of alcohol, as it will not affect the safety or effectiveness of your treatment. Drinking alcohol may increase the risk of some side effects of prednisone; discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist.
- Tell other doctors or dentists that you are being treated with CHPBV chemotherapy before you receive any treatment from them.
- Use effective contraception (birth control) if you could become pregnant or if your partner could become pregnant. Becoming pregnant while on chemotherapy will likely harm the baby. Do not breast feed.

Serious Side Effects:

Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The ones listed below are particularly important as they are directly related to the common actions of the drugs in your treatment plan.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS DURING TREATMENT	MANAGEMENT
Your white blood cells that help fight infections will be lowered by the treatment. Your blood count is expected to return to normal by Day 1 of the next cycle. If your white blood cell count becomes very low, you are at greater risk of having an infection	To help prevent infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Take care of your skin and mouth. • Call your doctor immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
Bleeding Problems can occur when your platelets are too low.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you develop black tarry stools, blood in your urine, pinpoint red spots on the skin, or prolonged nose bleeds report them immediately to your doctor or nurse.
Tissue Injury: Doxorubicin and brentuximab vedotin can cause tissue injury if they leak out of the vein while they are being given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any sensation of burning, stinging or pain to your chemotherapy nurse immediately
Heart failure Rarely, doxorubicin can have an effect on the heart in some patients causing failure of the heart's pumping action which results in shortness of breath, fatigue and leg swelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report shortness of breath, chest pain, or a fast or uneven heart beat to your doctor immediately.
Bladder problems: Rarely, cyclophosphamide may cause damage to the lining of the bladder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any signs of blood in urine, frequent need to pass urine, or pain on passing urine to your doctor immediately.
Changes in eyesight, speech, mood or muscle strength.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you experience changes in eyesight, speech, mood, trouble walking, decreased strength or weakness, contact your doctor immediately
Very rarely, brentuximab vedotin may cause stomach pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you experience severe stomach pain, let your doctor know immediately

Common Side Effects and Management:

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea and vomiting can occur with this treatment and you will need to take anti-nausea medications before and after your chemotherapy.</p>	<p>You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drugs to take before your IV treatment and later at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Help Manage Nausea</i>.*
<p>Hair Loss. Your hair will fall out 2-4 weeks after treatment begins. Your scalp may feel tender. You may lose hair on your face and body. Your hair will grow back once your treatments are over and sometimes between treatments. The colour and texture of the new hair growth may be different.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting your hair short or shaving your head may be more comfortable. • Avoid hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms. • Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching. • If you lose your eyelashes and eyebrows, protect your eyes from dust and grit with a broad-rimmed hat and glasses. • Ask your nurse about information on wigs and head coverings.
<p>Mouth Sores may occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, gums and sides of the mouth or in your throat. Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. Try ideas in <i>Easy to chew, easy to swallow food ideas</i>*. • Tell your doctor about a sore mouth, as your chemotherapy doses may need to be decreased if mouth sores are severe.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Fatigue is common especially in the first 1-2 weeks after your treatment. As the number of cycles increases fatigue may get worse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your energy level should slowly improve (weeks – months) after your final treatment is completed. Refer to the pamphlet <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings-How people with cancer can handle fatigue*</i>
<p>Your platelets may decrease 6-13 days after your treatment. They will return to normal with time. Platelets help your blood clot if you cut yourself. You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. Clean your nose by blowing gently; do not pick your nose. Avoid constipation Avoid ASA (eg, ASPIRIN®) unless recommended by your doctor. For minor pain use acetaminophen (TYLENOL®). Take your temperature prior to taking acetaminophen-containing products. Do not take common painkillers such as ibuprofen (eg, ADVIL®, MOTRIN®)
<p>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes commonly occurs. This should slowly return to normal once your treatments are over. This may take several months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold. Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small object
<p>Your urine may be pink or reddish for 1-2 days after your treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is expected as doxorubicin is red and is passed in your urine.
<p>Allergic reactions may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include chills, nausea, rash, itching, swelling, or breathing problems. This can occur immediately or up to a few days after receiving brentuximab vedotin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving brentuximab vedotin or contact your oncologist immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic
<p>Diarrhea may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If diarrhea is a problem: Drink plenty of fluids Eat and drink often in small amounts Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help Manage Diarrhea*</i>
<p>Constipation may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise if you can Drink plenty of fluids Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with Constipation*</i>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Sugar control may be affected in people with diabetes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic. See your doctor if you have signs of blood sugar problems such as thirst and frequent need to pass urine.
Increased energy and difficulty sleeping may be due to prednisone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The days you take your prednisone you may feel as though you have extra energy. • You may also have difficulty sleeping at night. • Take the prednisone first thing in the morning to prevent insomnia at night.

*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse for a copy

If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, tell your doctor about them at the time of your next visit. If any symptoms are severe, contact:

_____ at telephone number _____

If you have symptoms that are severe or need emergency services, go to your local hospital's Emergency Department.