

BC Cancer Protocol Summary for Adjuvant Treatment of Post-menopausal Women Using Pamidronate

Protocol Code

UBRAJPAM

Tumour Group

Breast

Contact Physician

Dr. Sophie Sun

ELIGIBILITY:

- Post-menopausal women
- Stage II or III only (pT2-4 pN0-3; pT0-4pN1-3), or post neo-adjuvant chemotherapy stage ypT2-4 ypN0-3; ypT0-4 ypN1-3
- Adequate renal function (CrCl \geq 30 mL/min)
- Demonstrated intolerance to zoledronic acid
- Bisphosphonate therapy must begin within 1 year of diagnosis
- BC Cancer Agency Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval

TESTS:

- Completion of necessary dental work is recommended prior to starting pamidronate
- Baseline and prior to each treatment: serum creatinine
- If clinically indicated: serum calcium* and albumin (or ionized calcium)

*corrected calcium (mmol/L) = total calcium (mmol/L) + (0.02 x [40 – albumin in g/L])

PREMEDICATIONS:

- None

TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BC Cancer Administration Guideline
pamidronate	90 mg	IV in 250 mL NS over 1 hour

- Repeat once every 6 months for up to 5 years. For scheduling purpose, the treatment day can be up to +/- 2-4 weeks for the next treatment cycle.
- If patient is on adjuvant chemotherapy, pamidronate is usually started after completion of chemotherapy treatment course.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

1. **Renal dysfunction:** There is limited experience in patients with serum creatinine greater than 440 micromol/L; caution is required.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Pamidronate should not be given as a bolus due to severe local reactions and thrombophlebitis.
2. **Symptomatic hypocalcemia** (e.g., muscle spasms, irritability) may occur and may require calcium supplement. Avoid concomitant use of other calcium lowering agents such as corticosteroids and loop diuretics.
3. After the use of bisphosphonates, there is a persistent risk of jaw osteonecrosis. Patients in whom bisphosphonates are planned should have prophylactic assessment and management by a dentist and all later dental work should be undertaken cautiously by dental specialists experienced in the recognition and management of jaw osteonecrosis

Call Dr. Sophie Sun or tumour group delegate at (604) 877-6000 or 1-800-663-3333 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.

References:

1. Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG). Adjuvant bisphosphonate treatment in early breast cancer: meta-analyses of individual patient data from randomised trials. *Lancet* 2015;386(10001):1353-61. Erratum in: *Lancet* 2016;387(10013):30.
2. Ben-Aharon I, Vidal L, Rizel S, et al. Bisphosphonates in the adjuvant setting of breast cancer therapy--effect on survival: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One* 2013 Aug 26;8(8):e70044.