ATTENUATED CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE, THALIDOMIDE & DEXAMETHASONE (CTDa)

INDICATIONS
First or subsequent-line chemotherapy for multiple myeloma

TREATMENT INTENT
Disease modification

GENERAL PRE-ASSESSMENT
1. Ensure all the following staging investigations are done:
   - FBC & film
   - Clotting screen
   - U&Es
   - LFTs
   - Calcium
   - Albumin
   - Uric acid
   - CRP
   - Baseline random blood glucose level
   - Virology: HIV, Hepatitis B (including core antibody), and Hepatitis C
   - Calculated creatinine clearance (CrCl), urine protein/creatinine ratio
   - Electrophoresis and immunofixation for quantitation of serum paraprotein and immunoglobulins.
   - Serum free light chain assay (Freelite)
   - β2 microglobulin
   - LDH
   - Myeloma FISH should be performed in all patients at diagnosis, and in selected patients at relapse/progression to help guide treatment decisions. Samples should be sent to Wessex Regional Genetics Laboratory (address below).
   - Urine pregnancy testing for pre-menopausal women younger than 55 before each cycle.
   - Group and save
   - Imaging as per NICE/network guidance and clinical presentation
   - Bone marrow aspirate and trephine and immunophenotype if appropriate

Wessex Regional Genetic Laboratory
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
Salisbury District Hospital
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP2 8BJ

Additional Investigations
Myeloma group

- Plasma viscosity if hyperviscosity suspected
- Hydration - fluid intake of at least 3 litres /day should be attempted
- Fertility - all patients should be offered fertility advice, as appropriate.
- Treatment must be agreed at the relevant MDT.
- Document patient’s performance status
- Counselling - all patients should receive verbal and written information on oral chemotherapy.

Ensure pre-chemotherapy counselling in line with NPSA recommendation and chemotherapy measure.
- Consent - ensure patient has received adequate verbal and written information regarding their disease, treatment and potential side effects. Document in medical notes all information that has been given. Obtain written consent for the treatment including signing Celgene Pregnancy Prevention Programme forms.

REGIMEN SPECIFIC PRE-ASSESSMENT

1. The conditions of the Thalidomide Celgene Pregnancy Prevention Programme must be fulfilled for all male and female patients. Prescribing and dispensing of thalidomide must be in line with the Celgene Pregnancy Prevention Programme.
2. Clinical Assessment of thrombo-embolic risk
3. Evaluate for and document presence of neuropathy. This is usually done by clinical assessment although nerve conduction studies may be useful in occasional patients to document the extent of neurological damage prior to treatment with thalidomide.

DRUG REGIMEN

The optimum dose of thalidomide is unknown. 100 mg is a typical target dose.

**Thalidomide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 - 100 mg po (preferably nocte)</td>
<td>Start dosing at 50 mg/day, increase every 2-4 weeks dependent on side effects.</td>
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**Cyclophosphamide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orally or intravenously <strong>either</strong> 500 mg <strong>once per week</strong> or orally 50-100 mg every day.</td>
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**Dexamethasone**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Dose</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 mg po daily for 4 days.</td>
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**Days 1 to 4**
* Days 15 to 18

CYCLE FREQUENCY

The cycle is repeated every 4 weeks for a minimum of 4 cycles and usually for 6-8 cycles depending on response and toxicity.
DOSE MODIFICATIONS

Haematological toxicity:
Dose reductions of cyclophosphamide may be necessary. If the neutrophil count falls below 0.5 x 10⁹/L or platelets below 50 x 10⁹/L interrupt cyclophosphamide until blood counts recover to neutrophils > 1.0 x 10⁹/L and platelets > 50 x 10⁹/L.

Peripheral Neuropathy:
Thalidomide should be stopped or dose reduced if there are symptoms of progressive peripheral or autonomic neuropathy causing functional disability (grade 2 or above). Consider cautious re-introduction of Thalidomide at 50 mg daily if neuropathy symptoms resolve to grade 1 or better. Alternatively consider second line treatment.

Hepatic/Renal impairment:

Cyclophosphamide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renal</th>
<th>Hepatic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical decision</td>
<td>Exposure to active metabolites may not be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR &gt; 20 ml/min</td>
<td>increased, suggesting that dose reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR 10 – 20 ml/min</td>
<td>may not be necessary. Clinical decision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFR &lt; 10 ml/min</td>
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Thalidomide:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Renal</th>
<th>Hepatic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No dose reduction necessary</td>
<td>No dose reduction necessary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

INVESTIGATIONS during treatment

- Urine pregnancy testing for pre-menopausal women younger than 55 before each cycle.
- FBC, U&Es, LFTs, Ca++, glucose – fortnightly.
- Ig’s, paraprotein, usually monthly after first 2 months: Freelite assay if appropriate.
- Urinary light chain if appropriate.
- Clinical assessment of neuropathy should be undertaken and documented prior to each cycle
- Consider bone marrow assessment after four cycles for non-secretory Myeloma.
- Consider blood glucose monitoring in patients with diabetes and those with signs of glucose intolerance

CONCURRENT MEDICATIONS

- Allopurinol 300 mg daily for 7 days for cycle 1 only. Aim to start day before chemotherapy.
- Prophylactic aciclovir 200 mg TDS (consider reducing to 200mg BD if CrCl)<10ml/min)
- Consider prophylactic fluconazole 50mg OD
- Consider prophylactic co-trimoxazole 960mg OD on M/W/F if heavily pre-treated or previous autograft.
- Consider prophylactic levofloxacin 500mg od for 12 weeks (cycles 1-3)
- Consider proton pump inhibitor or H2 antagonist at clinician’s discretion.
- Thromboprophylaxis/anticoagulation – see VTE section below.
- Bone protection as per NSSG Bone Protection protocol MM.3

**EMETIC RISK**

Moderate emetic risk on weekly cyclophosphamide days, otherwise low risk.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS/REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS**

- **Teratogenic:** The Thalidomide Celgene Pregnancy Prevention Programme must be observed for all male and female patients. Prescribing and dispensing of thalidomide must be in line with the pregnancy prevention programme.
- **Peripheral neuropathy:** Patients should be advised to report prickling, numbness and paraesthesia.
- **Venous thromboembolism (VTE):** There is an increased risk of thrombosis with thalidomide. Unless the patient is thought to be at particularly low-risk of thrombosis or high-risk of bleeding, some form of VTE prophylaxis is recommended as follows:
  1. Prophylactic low-molecular weight heparin OR
  2. Prophylactic NOAC e.g. apixaban 2.5mg bd (check product specific information)

  Aspirin can be appropriate for patients with no additional risk factors for thrombosis. It is generally not preferred for higher-risk patients with additional risk factors.

  If VTE occurs, thalidomide can be continued and the patient should be fully anticoagulated according to standard guidelines.

- **Drowsiness, somnolence and sedation:** Take thalidomide dose at night time dose. Thalidomide may potentiate the drowsiness caused by alcohol & other sedative medication. If affected, patients should be instructed not to drive cars, use machinery or perform hazardous tasks whilst taking thalidomide.

- **Dizziness and orthostatic hypotension:** Patients should be advised that thalidomide may cause orthostatic hypotension and that they should sit upright for a few minutes prior to standing up from a recumbent position.

- **Skin toxicity:** in the event of toxic skin reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, thalidomide should be discontinued permanently.

- **Cyclophosphamide related toxicities include:** leucopenia, haemorrhagic cystitis, hair loss, mucosal ulceration, anorexia, nausea and vomiting, pigmentation (typically affecting the palms and nails of the palms and the soles of the feet) pneumonitis and interstitial pulmonary fibrosis.

- **Dexamethasone related toxicities include:** mood changes, restlessness, withdrawal effects, glucose intolerance.
REFERENCES


REVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Review date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nadjoua Maouche Pharmacist</td>
<td>Formatting, adverse effects and pre assessment section, dose modification, contraindication section removed</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jaimal Kothari Consultant</td>
<td>VTE, regimen specific pre assessment section included</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuela Sultanova Service Coordinator</td>
<td>Formatting, general standardisation.</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
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<td>May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSSG Myeloma Group</td>
<td>2021 Annual Protocol Review</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
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