Indication
Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinaemia / lymphoplasmacytoid lymphoma

(Funding via CDF unless amyloid also present)

ICD-10 codes
Codes prefixed with D88

Regimen details
Cycle 1 (21 day cycle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 4, 8 and 11</td>
<td>Bortezomib</td>
<td>1.3mg/m²</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cycles 2 and 5 only (35 day cycle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 8, 15 and 22</td>
<td>Bortezomib</td>
<td>1.6mg/m²</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 8, 15 and 22</td>
<td>Dexamethasone</td>
<td>40mg OD</td>
<td>PO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 8, 15 and 22</td>
<td>Rituximab</td>
<td>375mg/m²</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cycles 3 and 4 only (35 day cycle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 8, 15 and 22</td>
<td>Bortezomib</td>
<td>1.6mg/m²</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There should be at least 72 hours between doses of bortezomib.

Cycle frequency
As above
Cycle 1 - 21 day cycle
Cycle 2 to 5 - 35 day cycles

Number of cycles
Until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity to a maximum of 5 cycles (as above)

Administration:
Bortezomib is administered as a subcutaneous bolus injection.
Bortezomib is also licensed for IV administration as a slow IV bolus over 3-5 seconds, however this may lead to increased risk of neurotoxicity.

Dexamethasone is available as 500microgram and 2mg tablets. It is taken orally 30 minutes prior to rituximab.

Rituximab is administered in 500mL sodium chloride 0.9%. The first infusion should be initiated at 50mg/hour and if tolerated the rate can be increased at 50mg/hour every 30 minutes to a maximum of 400mg/hour. Subsequent infusions should be initiated at 100 mg/hour and if tolerated increased at 100mg/hour increments every 30 minutes to a maximum of 400 mg/hour.
**Pre-medication:**
Rituximab premedication:
- Paracetamol 1g PO 60 minutes prior to rituximab infusion
- Chlorphenamine 10mg IV bolus 15 minutes prior to rituximab infusion
- Dexamethasone 40mg PO 30 minutes prior to rituximab (as per dosing table above)

**Emetogenicity:**
This regimen has low emetic potential.

**Additional supportive medication**
Allopurinol 300mg OD (or 100mg OD if creatinine clearance <20mL/min) for the first 7 days.
H₂ antagonist or proton-pump inhibitor as per local policy.
Antiemetics as per local policy.
Loperamide if required.
Aciclovir 400mg BD continuously
Consider prophylactic co-trimoxazole
Patients who experience dizziness or low blood pressure may benefit from 500mL sodium chloride 0.9% with each dose of bortezomib.

**Extravasation**
Bortezomib is an irritant (Group 3)
Rituximab is neutral (Group 1)

**Investigations – pre first cycle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigation</th>
<th>Validity period (or as per local policy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FBC</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U+E (including creatinine)</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFTs</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAT</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma viscosity</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood pressure</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECG and/or ECHO if clinically indicated

Other pre-treatment investigations:
Immunoglobulin level
Paraprotein level
Hepatitis B core antibody, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody
EBV, CMV
HIV 1 + 2
Group and Save

**Investigations – pre subsequent cycles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigation</th>
<th>Validity period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FBC</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U+E (including creatinine)</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma viscosity</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood pressure</td>
<td>On day 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Standard limits for administration to go ahead**

If blood results not within range, authorisation to administer must be given by prescriber/consultant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigation</th>
<th>Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophils</td>
<td>≥1.0 x 10⁹/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets</td>
<td>≥ 50 x 10⁹/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CrCl</td>
<td>&gt;20 mL/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilirubin</td>
<td>≤ 1.5 x ULN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neuropathy assessment also required prior to each cycle.

**Dose modifications**

- **Haematological toxicity**
  If neutrophils < 1.0 x 10⁹/L and/or platelets < 50 x 10⁹/L delay by one week or until resolved. Recomence bortezomib at reduced dose of 1.6mg/m² to 1.3mg/m² or 1.3mg/m² to 0.8mg/m².

- **Renal impairment**
  If CrCl < 20mL/min consider bortezomib dose reduction (consultant decision).

- **Hepatic impairment**
  Use with caution in mild to moderate hepatic impairment. If bilirubin > 1.5x ULN reduce bortezomib to 0.8mg/m² for cycle 1. Consider dose escalation to 1.0mg/m² or further dose reduction to 0.5mg/m² in subsequent cycles based on tolerability. Contraindicated in severe hepatic impairment.

- **Other toxicities**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Bortezomib dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuropathy</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 2 with moderate symptoms</td>
<td>1.3mg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 2 with pain or grade 3</td>
<td>Withhold treatment until ≤ grade 1. Recomence at dose of 0.8mg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patients should be advised to report pain, hypersensitivity, pins and needles, prickling, numbness and paraesthesia. If these occur, dose adjustments as above and consider use of amitriptyline, gabapentin and referral to specialist pain team.

**Adverse effects** – for full details consult product literature/ reference texts

- **Serious side effects**
  - Myelosuppression
  - Ileus
  - Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)
  - Pneumonitis

- **Frequently occurring side effects**
  - Myelosuppression
  - Neuropathic pain
  - Peripheral neuropathy
  - Dizziness
  - Orthostatic hypotension
  - Nausea, vomiting
  - Diarrhoea, constipation
Other side effects
Reactivation of herpes zoster virus
Seizures

Significant drug interactions – for full details consult product literature/reference texts

**Warfarin/coumarin anticoagulants:** increased or fluctuating anticoagulant effects. Avoid if possible, consider switching patient to a low molecular weight heparin during treatment or if the patient continues taking an oral anticoagulant monitor the INR at least once a week and adjust dose accordingly.

**Inducers of CYP3A4** (e.g. rifampicin, phenytoin, carbamazepine, St Johns Wort): avoid co-administration as these may reduce exposure to bortezomib.

**Inhibitors of CYP3A4** (e.g. ritonavir, saquinavir, telithromycin, ketoconazole,itraconazole, voriconazole, posaconazole, nefazodone, atazanavir): use with caution.

Antihypertensives should be used with caution due to the risk of orthostatic hypertension.

**Additional comments**
Caution in patients with history of syncope or with pre-existing peripheral neuropathy.

Male and female patients of childbearing potential must be advised to use effective contraception during and for 3 months following treatment.

Patients taking oral antidiabetic agents require close monitoring during treatment.

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**References**


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Written/reviewed by:  Dr S H Otton (Consultant Haematologist, North Bristol NHS Trust)

Checked by: Sarah Murdoch (Senior Oncology Pharmacist, SW Strategic Clinical Network)

Authorised by: Dr J Braybrooke (Consultant Oncologist, UHBristol NHS Trust, SW Strategic Clinical Network)

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