

## Breast Pathway Group – FEC75 (Fluorouracil / Epirubicin / Cyclophosphamide) in Advanced Breast Cancer

**Indication:** First line palliative therapy in selected patients with advanced breast cancer

**Regimen details:**

Fluorouracil	600mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	Day 1
Epirubicin	*75mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	Day 1
Cyclophosphamide	600mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	Day 1

\* Consider using FEC60 regimen in patients > 60 years

**Administration:**

Epirubicin IV bolus injection via a fast-running Sodium Chloride 0.9% infusion  
 Fluorouracil IV bolus injection via a fast-running Sodium Chloride 0.9% infusion  
 Cyclophosphamide may be administered as IV bolus injection via a fast-running Sodium Chloride 0.9% infusion or as a short infusion e.g. in 100-250ml Sodium Chloride 0.9% over 30 minutes

**Frequency:** Day 1, every 21 days, for 6 cycles

**Pre-medication:** Not routinely required

**Anti- emetics:** Highly Emetogenic  
Follow local anti-emetic policy.

**Supportive medication:** Mouthcare as per local policy.

**Extravasation:** Fluorouracil: Irritant  
Epirubicin: Vesicant  
Cyclophosphamide: Non-vesicant

Epirubicin should be administered with appropriate precautions to prevent extravasation. If there is any possibility that extravasation

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Prepared by: Anabel Rodriguez Marina	Approved by LCA Medicines & Chemotherapy Steering Group Chair: Jamie Ferguson	
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has occurred, contact a senior member of the medical team and follow local protocol for dealing with cytotoxic extravasation to reduce the risk of permanent tissue damage

Regular investigations:	Prior to Cycle 1:	
	FBC	Day 1 (within 14 days)
	LFTs	Day 1 (within 14 days)
	U&Es	Day 1 (within 14 days)
	MUGA scan/ECHO	See Comments
	Prior to Day 1 (all cycles):	
	FBC	Day 1 (within 72 hours)
	LFTs	Day 1 (within 72 hours)
	U&Es	Day 1 (within 72 hours)

Toxicities: Alopecia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, mucositis and stomatitis, fatigue, menorrhagia and early menopause.  
 Epirubicin: may colour the urine red  
 Fluorouracil: ECG Abnormalities – Isolated cases of angina, tachycardia, breathlessness and in rare occasions myocardial infarction have been reported with fluorouracil and monitoring is required during treatment with fluorouracil.  
 Palmar Plantar Erythrodysesthesia (PPE) has been reported with high dose bolus therapy

## DOSE MODIFICATIONS

### Haematological Toxicity

Neutrophils (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Platelets x (x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Dose
≥ 1.5	<b>&amp;</b>	≥ 100	100% dose
< 1.5	<b>or</b>	< 100	Delay for 1 week. Repeat FBC – if recovered to above these levels, resume treatment with 100% dose. Consider dose reduction for > 1 delay

Dose reduction and / or delay is more appropriate in the advanced setting.

- If during the preceding cycle, the patient has experienced neutrophils < 0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L or has febrile neutropenia diagnosed, GCSF should be considered.
- If platelets persistently < 100 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L on Day 1 despite dose delay – seek Consultant advice and consider dose reduction by 25%

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**Non-haematological Toxicities****Renal Impairment**

Creatinine Clearance (ml/ml)	Cyclophosphamide Dose	Fluorouracil Dose	Epirubicin Dose
> 20	100%	100%	100%
10-20	75%	100%	100%
<10	Discuss with consultant and consider 50% dose	Omit / Clinical decision	Omit / Clinical decision

**Hepatic Impairment**

Bilirubin (µmol/L)		AST / ALT (Units)	Cyclophosphamide Dose	Fluorouracil Dose	Epirubicin Dose
24-51	&/or	2-4 xULN	100%*	100%	50%
51-85	&/or	> 4 x ULN	Omit	Omit	25%
>85	&	Any	Omit	Omit	Omit

\*Cyclophosphamide is not recommended in patients with bilirubin >17 µmol/L or AST/ALT more than 2-3ULN, however, exposure to active metabolites may not be increased, therefore a dose reduction may not be necessary. Decision should be discussed with the Consultant.

**Dose reductions for other toxicities****Epirubicin**

Mucositis may appear 5-10 days after the start of treatment, and usually involves stomatitis with areas of painful erosions, mainly along the side of the tongue and the sublingual mucosa. For grade III painful erythema or ulcers requiring IV rehydration resolving to Grade I or less painless ulcers or mild soreness: give Epirubicin 85% dose and recommend regular mouth care.

Location of regimen delivery:

Outpatient setting

**Comments:****Epirubicin**

Maximum lifetime cumulative dose epirubicin = 950mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
A baseline MUGA scan or Echocardiogram should be performed where the patient is considered at risk of having impaired cardiac function e.g. significant cardiac history, hypertension, diabetes, obese, smoker, elderly, previous exposure to anthracyclines, previous thoracic radiotherapy.

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MUGA scan or Echocardiogram should be repeated if there is suspicion of cardiac toxicity at any point during treatment, or if cumulative anthracycline dose approaches maximum

Fluorouracil

Dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) deficiency can result in severe toxicity secondary to reduced metabolism of fluorouracil. Ensure patient is informed of action to take if signs of toxicity (e.g. severe mucositis, diarrhoea) develop within the first few days of treatment, as this is often an early indication of DPD deficiency.

Cyclophosphamide

Haematuria and haemorrhagic cystitis may rarely occur with cyclophosphamide administration (especially at doses above 1000mg). Patients should be monitored during therapy and encouraged to maintain adequate fluid intake whilst on therapy.

Pulmonary Fibrosis and Interstitial Pneumonitis is a rare complication of cyclophosphamide therapy and patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of pulmonary dysfunction during treatment. Cyclophosphamide should be discontinued if fibrosis develops

Drug interactions:

Use of epirubicin with cardioactive compounds (e.g. calcium channel blocker) required careful monitoring throughout treatment. Avoid commencing epirubicin based therapy for up to 25 weeks after stopping trastuzumab therapy.

Fluorouracil and warfarin – INR raised when used concomitantly with fluorouracil. Switch to LMWH if anticoagulant therapy required.

Epirubicin and Cyclophosphamide

Clozapine: increased risk of agranulocytosis, avoid concomitant use  
 Digoxin tablets: reduced absorption (resolved by giving the digoxin in liquid)  
 Phenytoin: reduced absorption of the antiepileptic

Epirubicin

Cimetidine and Ciclosporin: can increase Epirubicin serum level  
 Verapamil: possibly increases Epirubicin bone marrow depressant effects

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Cyclophosphamide

Allopurinol: can increase the incidence of serious bone marrow depression

Amiodarone: increased risk of pulmonary fibrosis ; avoid combination if possible

Grapefruit juice: decreased or delayed activation of cyclophosphamide. Avoid grapefruit juice for 48 hours before and on day of cyclophosphamide

Indapamide: prolonged leucopenia is possible

Itraconazole: might increase Cyclophosphamide side effects e.g.haemorrhagic cystitis, pigmentation of palms, nails and soles etc..

Warfarin: anticoagulant effect is increased

References:

Summary of Product Characteristics. Fluorouracil Hospira SPC updated 24/08/2011

Summary of Product Characteristics. Epirubicin. Hospira UK Ltd. SPC updated 28/06/2013

Summary of Product Characteristics. Cyclophosphamide. Pharmacia SPC updated 26/03/2012

UCLH – Dosage Adjustment for Cytotoxics in Renal Impairment. January 2009

UCLH – Dosage Adjustment for Cytotoxics in Hepatic Impairment. January 2009

LCA Breast Cancer Clinical Guidelines October 2013

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