Procarbazine Lomustine and VinCRIStine (PCV) Therapy

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

INDICATION	ICD10	Regimen Code	Reimbursement Status
Adjuvant treatment of Grade II glioma administered after radiotherapy	C71	00379a	Hospital
Palliative treatment for recurrent high grade gliomas	C71	00379b	Hospital

TREATMENT:

The starting dose of the drugs detailed below may be adjusted downward by the prescribing clinician, using their independent medical judgement, to consider each patients individual clinical circumstances.

Each cycle consists of:

- Lomustine orally on day 1
- Procarbazine orally on days 8 to 21
- VinCRIStine administered IV on days 8 and 29

repeated every 6 weeks or until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity develops.

For adjuvant therapy: PCV Therapy should start within 4 weeks after completion of radiotherapy.

Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1	[a,c] Lomustine	110mg/m^2 ONCE a day	PO	N/A	Every 42 days
8 to 21	[b, c]Procarbazine	60mg/m^2 ONCE a day	PO	N/A	Every 42 days
8, 29	[d]VinCRIStine	1.4mg/m^2 (Dose capped at 2mg)	IV	50ml 0.9% NaCl over 10min	Every 42 days
[a]Lomustine is available as 40mg capsules					
[b]Procarbazine is available as 50mg capsules, round dose to nearest 50mg					
[c]Lomustine and procarbazine are unlicensed drugs. If the drug is not to be dispensed by the hospital, then the hospital should ensure communication with the patient's community pharmacy to ensure there is no interruption in treatment					
[d]VinCRIStine is a neurotoxic chemotherapeutic agent. Refer to NCCP Guidance on the Safe Use of Neurotoxic drugs (including Vinca Alkaloids) in the treatment of cancer https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/medonc/safetyreview/neurotoxicguidance.pdf					

ELIGIBILTY:

- Indications as above
- ECOG 0-2 (adjuvant)
- ECOG 0-3 (palliative)
- Adequate renal and hepatic function

EXCLUSIONS:

- Patients with hypersensitivity to procarbazine, lomustine vinCRIStine or any of the listed excipients
- Pregnancy
- Lactation

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:

The treatment plan must be initiated by a Consultant Medical Oncologist

TESTS:

Baseline tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile
- Glucose
- Pulmonary function tests

Regular tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile prior to each treatment
- Pulmonary function tests with prolonged therapy

Disease monitoring:

Disease monitoring should be in line with the patient's treatment plan and any other test/s as directed by the supervising Consultant.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

- Any dose modification should be discussed with a Consultant.

Haematological:

Table 1: Dose modifications in haematological toxicity

ANC (x 10^9/L)		Platelets (x 10^9/L)	Dose
≥1.5	and	≥100	100%
0.5-1.49	or	50-99	Delay treatment until recovery
<0.5		< 50	Delay treatment until recovery and reduce lomustine and procarbazine by 25% for subsequent cycles
Febrile neutropenia			Delay treatment until recovery and reduce lomustine and procarbazine by 25% for subsequent cycles

Renal and Hepatic Impairment:

Table 2: Dose modifications in renal and hepatic impairment

Drug	Renal Impairment		Hepatic Impairment			
Lomustine	**CrCl (ml/min)**	**Dose**	Lack of information available Consider dose reduction			
	>60	100%				
	45-60	75%				
	30-45	50%				
	<30	Not recommended				
Procarbazine	**Serum creatinine**	**Dose**	**Bilirubin (micromol/L)**		**AST/ALT**	**Dose**
	> 177 micromol/L	50%	>50			Consider a dose reduction
	Severe renal impairment	Not recommended	>85	or	AST >180	Contra-indicated
VinCRIStine	No dose reduction necessary		26-51	or	60-180	50%
			>51	and	Normal	50%
			>51	and	> 180	Omit

SUPPORTIVE CARE:

EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL:

Lomustine	Day 1 Moderate to High	(Refer to local policy)
Procarbazine	Day 8-22 Moderate to High	(Refer to local policy)
VinCRIStine	Day 8 and 29 Minimal	(Refer to local policy)

PREMEDICATIONS: None usually required

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:

- Prophylactic regimen against vinCRIStine induced constipation is recommended **(Refer to local policy)**.
- Lomustine can cause birth defects. Men and women are recommended to take contraceptive precautions during therapy with lomustine and for 6 months after treatment.

ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS:

The adverse effects listed are not exhaustive. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for full details.

- **Neutropenia:** Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated appropriately.
- **Pulmonary toxicity:** Lomustine should be administered with caution in patients with a baseline below 70% of predicted forced vital capacity (FVC) or carbon monoxide diffusing capacity ($DL_{CO.}$) Baseline pulmonary function studies should be carried out and repeated as clinically indicated during treatment. Pulmonary toxicity associated with lomustine appears to be dose- related.
- **Peripheral neuropathy:** VinCRIStine may cause peripheral neuropathy which is dose related and

cumulative, requiring monitoring before each dose is administered. The presence of pre-existing neuropathies or previous treatment with other neurotoxic drugs may increase risk of peripheral neuropathy. Patients with mild peripheral neuropathy can usually continue to receive full doses of vinCRIStine, but when symptoms increase in severity and interfere with neurologic function, dose reduction or discontinuation of the drug may be necessary. The natural history following discontinuation of treatment is gradual improvement, which may take up to several months.

- **Extravasation:** VinCRIStine causes pain and possible tissue necrosis if extravasated (Refer to local policy).

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- Procarbazine is a weak MAO inhibitor and therefore interactions with certain foodstuffs and drugs, although very rare, must be borne in mind. Thus, owing to possible potentiation of the effect of barbiturates, narcotic analgesics (especially pethidine), drugs with anticholinergic effects (including phenothiazine derivatives and tricyclic antidepressants), other central nervous system depressants (including anaesthetic agents) and anti-hypertensive agents, these drugs should be given concurrently with caution and in low doses.
- Intolerance to alcohol (Disulfiram-like reaction) may occur.
- Concurrent administration of vinCRIStine with allopurinol, pyridoxine or isoniazid may increase the incidence of cytotoxic induced bone marrow depression.
- CYP 3A4 enzyme inducers may increase the clearance of vinCRIStine.
- CYP3A4 enzyme inhibitors may decrease the clearance of vinCRIStine
- Current drug interaction databases should be consulted for more information.

ATC CODE:

Procarbazine	L01XB01
Lomustine	L01AD02
VinCRIStine	L01CA02

REFERENCES:

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3. van den Bent MJ, Brandes AA, Taphoorn MJ. Adjuvant Procarbazine, Lomustine, and Vincristine Chemotherapy in Newly Diagnosed Anaplastic Oligodendroglioma: Long-Term Follow-Up of EORTC Brain Tumor Group Study 26951. J Clin Oncol 2012
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Version	Date	Amendment	Approved By
1	01/12/2016		Prof Maccon Keane
2	26/10/2017	Clarified supply of unlicensed drugs. Updated dosing of lomustine in hepatic impairment, emetogenic status and applied new NCCP regimen template	Prof Maccon Keane
3	23/10/2019	Biennial review. Update of emetogenic potential and supportive care	Prof Maccon Keane

Comments and feedback welcome at oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie.