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National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Quick reference guide

Docetaxel for the adjuvant treatment of early node-positive breast cancer

NOTE: This guidance replaces paragraph 1.3 in NICE *technology appraisal guidance* no. 30 issued in September 2001.

Guidance

Docetaxel, when given concurrently with doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (the TAC regimen) as per its licensed indication, is recommended as an option for the adjuvant treatment of women with early node-positive breast cancer.

Implementation

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA109).

- Local costing template incorporating costing report to estimate the savings and costs associated with implementation.
- Audit criteria to monitor local practice.

Further information

Quick reference guide

This has been distributed to healthcare professionals working in the NHS in England and Wales (see www.nice.org.uk/TA109distributionlist). It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA109quickrefguide

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1101).

Full guidance

This contains the following sections:

- 1 Guidance
- 2 The technology
- 3 The manufacturer's submission
- 4 Consideration of the evidence
- 5 Implementation
- 6 Related guidance
- 7 Review of guidance.

The full guidance also gives details of the Appraisal Committee and the sources of evidence considered. It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA109guidance

'Understanding NICE guidance'

Information for women with breast cancer and their carers is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA109publicinfo

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1102).

NICE technology appraisal guidance 109

This guidance is written in the following context

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Related guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see the website (www.nice.org.uk).

- Paclitaxel for the adjuvant treatment of early node-positive breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no.108 (September 2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA108
- Trastuzumab for the adjuvant treatment of early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no.107 (August 2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA107
- Familial breast cancer: the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care. *NICE clinical guideline* no.14 (May 2004). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/CG014
- Guidance on the use of taxanes for the treatment of breast cancer (review). *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no. 30 (September 2001). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA030

Guidance in TA30 on the use of taxanes for the treatment of advanced breast cancer is still current (paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2). Guidance in TA30 on the use of taxanes for the adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer (paragraph 1.3) is obsolete and replaced by this guidance and NICE technology appraisal guidance 108 ('Paclitaxel for the adjuvant treatment of early node-positive breast cancer').

NICE is in the process of developing the following guidance (details available from www.nice.org.uk).

- Familial breast cancer: the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care (partial update of CG14). *NICE clinical guideline* (publication expected October 2006).
- Hormonal therapies for early breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* (publication expected November 2006).
- Early breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment. *NICE clinical guideline* (publication expected July 2008).
- Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment. *NICE clinical guideline* (publication expected July 2008).

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