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NHS
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Quick reference guide

Gemcitabine for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer

1 Guidance

1.1 Gemcitabine in combination with paclitaxel, within its licensed indication, is recommended as an option for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer only when docetaxel monotherapy or docetaxel plus capecitabine are also considered appropriate.

2 Implementation

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA116).

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

NICE technology appraisal guidance 116

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.

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/TA116distributionlist). It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA116quickrefguide

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1178).

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 NICE 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/TA116guidance

'Understanding NICE guidance'

Information for patients and their carers is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA116publicinfo

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1179).

Related NICE guidance

- Capecitabine for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 62 (2003). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA062
- Vinorelbine for the treatment of advanced breast cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 54 (2002). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA054
- Trastuzumab for the treatment of advanced breast cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 34 (2002). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA034
- Taxanes for the treatment of breast cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 30 (2001). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA030

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

- Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment. NICE clinical guideline (publication expected September 2008).

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