Positive Quality Intervention: Brentuximab Vedotin (Adcetris®) Neuropathy and Neutropenia Management

**Description:** Brentuximab vedotin is a CD30-directed antibody drug conjugate (ADC) with various indications including front-line treatment for patients with classical stage III/IV Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (HL) or CD30-expressing peripheral T-cell lymphomas (PTCL) in combination with multiagent chemotherapy. It is also approved in combination with doxorubicin, vincristine, etoposide, prednisone, and cyclophosphamide for pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with previously untreated high risk classical Hodgkin lymphoma. This PQI will review how to safely manage select toxicities associated with brentuximab vedotin.

**Background:** ADCs offer a unique modality of drug delivery to cancer cells expressing specific targets. In the case of brentuximab vedotin (BV), monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) is attached via a linker to a monoclonal antibody (mAb) directed against CD30. Upon binding to CD30 on the cell surface, BV is internalized and the linker is cleaved to release MMAE, which then exerts its cytotoxic effect. The efficacy of BV for cHL and CD30-expressing PTCL was established from the Echelon-1 and Echelon-2 trials, respectively. In both trials, outcomes favored the BV + chemotherapy combination over standard of care chemotherapy. For PTCL, only a positive expression of CD30 is required for patients to be eligible for therapy. Adverse events included neuropathy and hematologic toxicities. Clinicians need to be aware of recommended interventions to optimally and safely manage neuropathy and neutropenia in patients receiving brentuximab vedotin. This is particularly important in patients with HL as they can be treated with curative intent.

**PQI Process:**

- **Neutropenia Prevention and Management**
  - Patients initiating front-line therapy with brentuximab vedotin for HL or PTCL should receive granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) beginning with Cycle 1, Day 1.
  - The choice of G-CSF therapy should follow institutional standard and formulary; the use of long acting G-CSF agents is appropriate when indicated (14 or 21 day regimens).
  - All patients who experience Grade ≥3 neutropenia who did not receive primary G-CSF prophylaxis should receive it with subsequent cycles.
  - CBC with differential should be assessed prior to each dose of brentuximab vedotin.

- **Neuropathy Prevention and Management**
  - Neuropathies, primarily sensory rather than motor, may be seen in >50% of patients.
  - Symptoms of hypo- or hyperesthesia, paresthesia, discomfort, burning sensation, weakness, tingling and neuropathic pain should be assessed with each cycle.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** NCODA has developed this Positive Quality Intervention platform. This platform is intended as an educational aid, does not provide individual medical advice, and does not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. This platform does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warning, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with the medication. The materials contained in this platform do not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by NCODA. NCODA does not ensure the accuracy of the information presented and assumes no liability relating to its accuracy. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional. It is the individual’s sole responsibility to seek guidance from a qualified healthcare professional. Updated 5.28.24
### Table: Dose Adjustments for Neuropathy

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<th>Brentuximab Vedotin Dose¹</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
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| 1.8 mg/kg (max 180 mg) every 3 weeks + CHP* | 2     | Sensory: Continue  
                                      |       | Motor: Reduce to 1.2 mg/kg (max 120 mg)  |
| 1.8 mg/kg (max 180 mg) every 3 weeks (max 5 doses) + AVEPC** | 3     | Sensory: Reduce to 1.2 mg/kg (max 120 mg)  
                                      |       | Motor: Discontinue |
| 1.8 mg/kg (max 180 mg) every 3 weeks | 4     | Discontinue |
| 1.2 mg/kg (max 120 mg) every 2 weeks + AVD*** | 2     | Reduce to 0.9mg/kg (max 90 mg) |
| 1.2 mg/kg (max 120 mg) every 2 weeks | 3     | Hold until recover ≤ Grade 2 and restart at 0.9 mg/kg (max 90 mg)  
                                      |       | Consider modifying other neurotoxic chemo |
| 1.2 mg/kg (max 120 mg) every 2 weeks | 4     | Discontinue |

* PTCL indication in combination with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and prednisone  
**cHL pediatric indication in combination with doxorubicin, vincristine, etoposide, prednisone, and cyclophosphamide  
***HL indication in combination with doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine

**Patient-Centered Activities:**
- Counsel patient and provide written education sheets
- Educate patients to report fevers or signs of an infection such as coughing or congestion immediately
  - Some patients may require supportive care with G-CSF agents for neutropenia; supplemented with antihistamines if associated bone pain occurs (ex. loratadine)
- Many patients (especially those with HL) may under report symptoms due to a concern of diminished efficacy with interventions; building a rapport with these patients and helping them understand the balance between safety and efficacy is important
  - Tests to help assess for neuropathy include buttoning a shirt or picking up a coin off of a flat surface
  - Colder temperatures may exacerbate the neuropathies
  - Counsel patients to report any numbness or tingling in their hands or feet or muscle weakness

**Patient Assistance:** [NCODA Financial Assistance Tool](https://ncoda.org/)

**References:**

1. Adcetris® (brentuximab vedotin) [prescribing information].