

# MANAGING CHEMOTHERAPY SIDE EFFECTS

REVIEWING PREVENTION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES OF THREE  
COMMON ISSUES

MICHELLE GARDINER, PHARMD, BCOP, CPP

AUGUST 12, 2020

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## OBJECTIVES

- Identify tactics for preventing and treating acute infusion reactions
- Describe non-pharmacological and pharmacological ways to prevent or manage chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy
- Demonstrate an understanding of cancer-related fatigue and treatable contributing factors

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## INFUSION RELATED REACTION (IRR) HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTION (HSR)

Acute (<1 hour)

- Pruritis (itching)
  - Flushing
- Urticaria (hives)
  - Dyspnea
  - Bronchospasm
- Chest pain/tightness
  - Fever
  - Rigors or chills
- Hypo- or hypertension
  - Back pain

Ann Oncol. 2012;23 Suppl 10:x313-x319

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## MEDICATIONS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH ACUTE INFUSION REACTIONS

- TAXANES
  - PACLITAXEL (TAXOL®)
  - NAB-PACLITAXEL (ABRAXANE®)
  - DOCETAXEL (TAXOTERE®)
- PLATINUM-BASED
  - CISPLATIN (PLATINOL®)
  - CARBOPLATIN (PARAPLATIN®)
  - OXALIPLATIN (ELOXATIN®)
- CETUXIMAB (ERIBITUX®)
- RITUXIMAB (RITUXAN®)

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## INFUSION RELATED REACTIONS (IRR) SUBTYPES

Type I

- Ige mediated
- Associated with repeated exposure
- Release of histamine, prostaglandins, leukotrienes
- Contraction of smooth muscle and dilation of capillaries
- Urticaria, hypotension, rash, bronchospasm

Anaphylactoid  
or  
Pseudoallergy

- First or second exposure
- Direct interaction with mast cells and basophils
- Cytokine release
- Hypotension, rash, bronchospasm

Oncologist. 2007;12(5):601-609

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### COMMON TERMINOLOGY CRITERIA FOR ADVERSE EVENTS (CTCAE) VERSION 5.0

CTCAE Term	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Infusion related reaction	Mild transient reaction; infusion interruption not indicated; intervention not indicated	Therapy or infusion interruption indicated but responds promptly to symptomatic treatment (e.g., antihistamines, NSAIDS, narcotics, IV fluids); prophylactic medications indicated for <=24 hrs	Prolonged (e.g., not rapidly responsive to symptomatic medication and/or brief interruption of infusion); recurrence of symptoms following initial improvement; hospitalization indicated for clinical sequelae	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated	Death
<b>Definition:</b> A disorder characterized by adverse reaction to the infusion of pharmacological or biological substances.					

Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) v5.0. Publish Date: November 27, 2017

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## EXAMPLE OF EMERGENCY ORDER SET

**NURSING OXYGEN ORDERS / INSTRUCTIONS-** OXYGEN DEVICE: NASAL CANNULA LITERS PER / MINUTE: 2 KEEP SPO2 > OR = TO: 92 FOR GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS AND GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS

**SODIUM CHLORIDE (NS) 0.9 % INFUSION** 20 ML/HR, INTRAVENOUS- FOR GRADE 1 - MILD SYMPTOMS OR GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS

**SODIUM CHLORIDE 0.9% (NS BOLUS) BOLUS 1,000 ML-** FOR GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS.

**DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL) INJECTION 25 MG** 25 MG, INTRAVENOUS, ONCE AS NEEDED, FOR GRADE 1 - MILD SYMPTOMS, GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS, OR GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS.,

**FAMOTIDINE IV 20 MG-** FOR GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS OR GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS.

**MEPERIDINE (DEMEROL) INJECTION 25 MG-** ONCE AS NEEDED, RIGORS, STARTING WHEN RELEASED, FOR 1 DOSE FOR GRADE 1 - MILD SYMPTOMS OR GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS

**METHYLPREDNISOLONE SODIUM SUCCINATE INJECTION 125 MG-** 125 MG, INTRAVENOUS, ONCE AS NEEDED, FOR GRADE 2 - MODERATE SYMPTOMS OR GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS.

**EPINEPHRINE IM 0.3 MG-** 0.3 MG, INTRAMUSCULAR, ONCE AS NEEDED, FOR GRADE 3 - SEVERE/ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS

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## TAXANES

<b>PACLITAXEL (TAXOL®)</b>	<b>NAB-PACLITAXEL (ABRAXANE®)</b>	<b>DOCETAXEL (TAXOTERE®)</b>
<p>SOLVENT: CREMOPHOR EL (POLYOXYL 35/POLYOXYETHYLATED CASTOR OIL)</p> <p>PREMEDICATION: H1 BLOCKER, CORTICOSTEROID, H2 BLOCKER</p> <p>RATE OF HSR: 31-45%; SEVERE: 2-4%</p> <p>CROSS REACTIVITY: ??</p>	<p>SOLVENT: N/A</p> <p>PREMEDICATION: NO PREMEDICATION IS REQUIRED</p> <p>RATE OF HSR: 4%</p> <p>CROSS REACTIVITY: RARE</p>	<p>SOLVENT: POLYSORBATE 80 (TWEEN 80)</p> <p>PREMEDICATION: CORTICOSTEROID FOR 3 DAYS; DEXAMETHASONE 8 MG TWICE DAILY, BEGIN DAY BEFORE INFUSION</p> <p>RATE OF HSR: 6-21%</p> <p>CROSS REACTIVITY: ??</p>

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## PACLITAXEL (AND DOCETAXEL): RE-CHALLENGE

- INCREASE CORTICOSTEROIDS
  - DEXAMETHASONE 20 MG PO 12 HOURS AND 6 HOURS PRIOR
- INCREASE ANTIHISTAMINES
- SLOW INFUSION RATE
  - 50% OF USUAL RATE
  - TITRATION

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## TOLERANCE OF NAB-PACLITAXEL

37 patients	All doses appropriately premedicated	Nab-paclitaxel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 history of paclitaxel HSR</li> <li>• 6 history of paclitaxel and docetaxel hsr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paclitaxel- Dexamethasone 20mg iv, diphenhydramine 50 mg iv, famotidine 20 mg iv (30 minutes before)</li> <li>• Docetaxel- dexamethasone 20 mg po (evening before and morning of), diphenhydramine 50 mg iv, famotidine 20 mg iv (30 minutes before)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 10 mg iv (30 minutes before) first 3 infusions</li> <li>• Dexamethasone omitted unless needed for nausea prevention</li> <li>• No HSRs</li> </ul>

J Gynecol Oncol. 2017;28(4):e38

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## PLATINUM-BASED CHEMOTHERAPIES AND HSRS

- PRIMARILY IGE MEDIATED
- OCCURRENCE INCREASES WITH INCREASED EXPOSURE
- INCREASE IN SEVERITY
- NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE TO TREATMENT

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## RITUXIMAB

<b>Dermatologic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pruritis ≤ 17%</li><li>• Urticaria 2-8%</li></ul>
<b>Respiratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dyspnea 7-10%</li><li>• Bronchospasm 8%</li></ul>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flushing 5-14%</li><li>• Hypertension 6-12%</li><li>• Hypotension 10%</li><li>• Chest tightness 7%</li></ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Angioedema 11%</li><li>• Rigors 10%</li></ul>

Rituximab (intravenous) including biosimilars of rituximab: Drug Information: LexiComp, Inc. UpToDate. Waltham, Mass.: UpToDate; 2020. www.uptodate.com. Accessed August 1, 2020.

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## RITUXIMAB

### Patient Characteristic Influencing HSR

- Bulky disease > 10 cm
- Indolent subtypes (eg, mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), follicular lymphoma (FL))
- High levels of circulating tumor B-cells

### Strategies for Managing HSR

- Interrupt infusion
- Give medications (antihistamines or corticosteroids)
- Restart at 50% rate
- Titrate ???

Int J Clin Pharm. 2017 Apr;39(2):380-385  
J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. Sep-Oct 2018;6(5):1621-1627.e6

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## CETUXIMAB (ERBITUX®)

EGFR receptor antagonist used in head neck cancer and metastatic colorectal cancers

Initial FDA approval had grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  infusion reaction in < 5% of patients

Southwestern United States (including North Carolina and Tennessee) saw grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  reactions of >20%

Preformed immunoglobulin E antibodies against galactose- $\alpha$ -1,3-galactose in serum

Cancer. 2016 Jun 1;122(11):1697-701. doi: 10.1002/ncr.29978. Epub 2016 Mar 15  
<https://uspl.lilly.com/erbitux/erbitux.html#s18>.

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## CETUXIMAB

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Alpha-gal assay for IgE antibodies</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative = &lt; 0.10 kU/L</li> <li>Included levels up to &lt;0.35 kU/L</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Alpha-gal testing not mandated in package insert</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate for history of tick bites</li> <li>History of red meat allergy</li> </ul>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>61.7% (37/60) patients negative</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Values: &lt;0.10-0.23 kU/L</li> <li>No anaphylaxis</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Send out test</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 days for results</li> </ul>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>38.3% (23/60) patients positive</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Values: &lt;1.0-44.2</li> <li>Excluded from cetuximab arm</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Premedicate</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antihistamines</li> <li>Corticosteroids</li> </ul>

Cancer. 2016 Jun 1;122(11):1697-701.  
<https://uspl.lilly.com/erbitux/erbitux.html#s18>.

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## RAPID DRUG DESENSITIZATION

- ONE SOLUTION DESENSITIZATION
  - TOTAL DOSE PREPARED
  - 500 ML TOTAL VOLUME- PLATINES, TAXANES, RITUXIMAB
  - 250 ML FOR CETUXIMAB
- PREMEDICATIONS
  - CETIRIZINE 10 MG ORAL (PO)- (EVERY 12 HOURS SINCE 3 DAYS BEFORE)
  - ASPIRIN 200-500 MG PO - (EVERY 24 HOURS SINCE DAY BEFORE, UNLESS CONTRAINDICATION)
  - MONTELUKAST 10 MG PO - (EVERY 24 HOURS SINCE DAY BEFORE)
  - DEXCHLORPHENIRAMINE 5 MG IV – (30 MINUTES BEFORE)
  - RANITIDINE 50 MG IV – (30 MINUTES BEFORE)
  - METHYLPREDNISILONE 1 MG/KG IV OR HYDROCORTISONE 100 MG IV FOR RITUXIMAB
  - DEXAMETHASONE 20 MG PO (12 HOURS AND 1 HOUR BEFORE)

J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2018;6(5):1621-1627.e6.

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## RAPID DRUG DESENSITIZATION

**Example of dosing for 130 mg of oxaliplatin diluted in 525 mL of volume (0.247 mg/mL)**

Rate (mL/hr)	Time (min)	Accumulated Time (min)	Volume (mL)	Accumulated Volume (mL)	Dose (mg)	Accumulated Dose (mg)
5	15	15	1.25	1.25	0.3	0.3
10	15	30	2.5	3.75	0.68	0.98
25	15	45	6.25	10	1.54	2.52
50	15	60	12.5	22.5	3.08	5.6
75	15	75	18.75	41.25	4.63	10.23
100	15	90	25	66.25	6.17	16.4
150	15	105	37.5	103.75	9.26	25.66
200	15	120	50	153.75	12.35	38.01
250	89.16	209.16	371.5	525	91.76	129.77

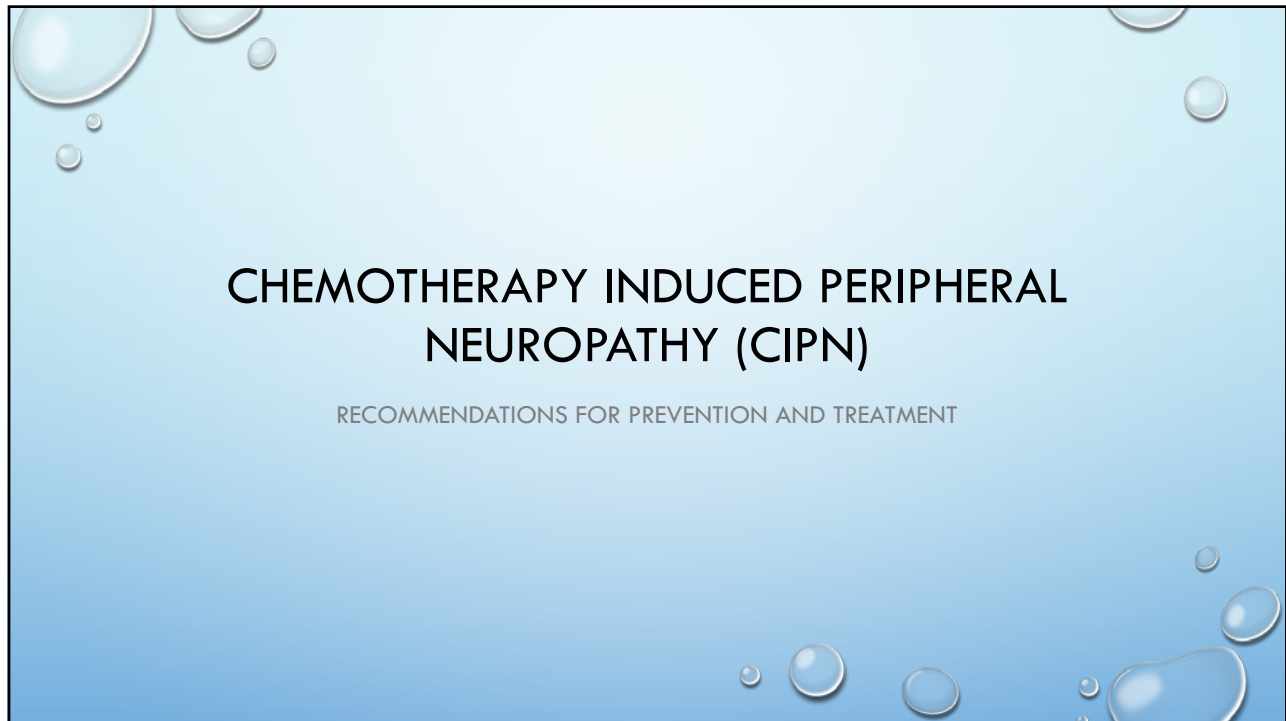
J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2018;6(5):1621-1627.e6

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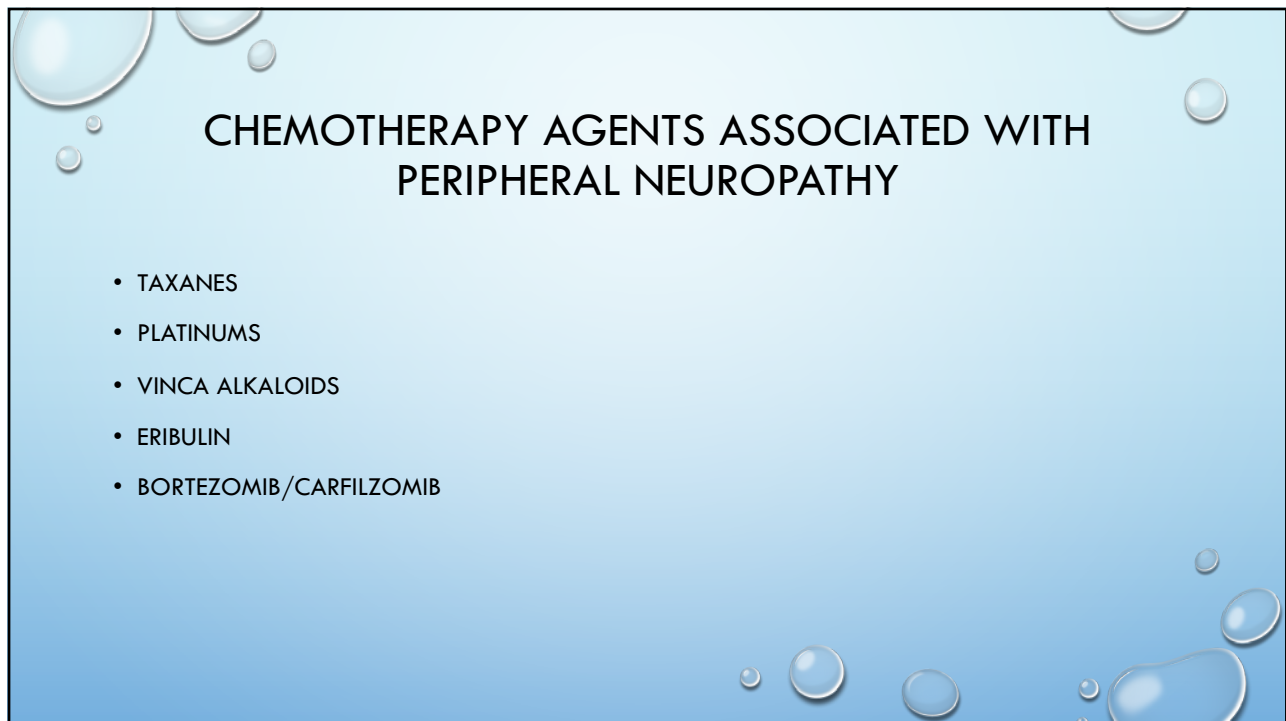
## TAKE HOME POINTS

- HYPERSENSITIVITY REACTIONS/INFUSION RELATED REACTIONS ARE UNPREDICTABLE
- PREDICTING IRRS MAY BE POSSIBLE IN CETUXIMAB AND RITUXIMAB
- HAVE STANDING HSR RESPONSE ORDERS IN PLACE
- CONSIDER ENHANCED PREMEDICATION STRATEGIES AND SLOWER INFUSION RATES
- DISCONTINUE PRECIPITATING MEDICATION
- CHANGE TREATMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE
- CONSIDER DESENSITIZATION WHEN DISCONTINUATION OR CHANGING TREATMENT NOT OPTION AND/OR EXPECTED FUTURE TREATMENTS ARE LIMITED

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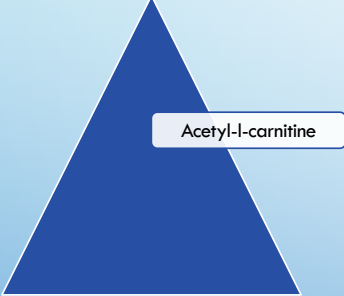
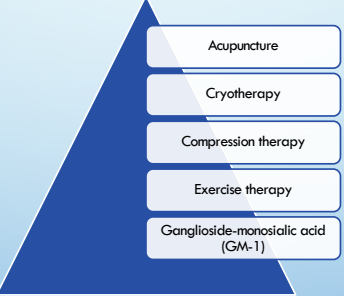
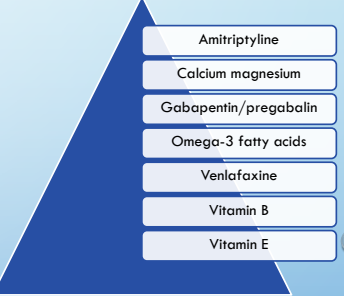
## PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY IN SURVIVORS OF ADULT CANCERS: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY (ASCO) GUIDELINE UPDATE

- PACLITAXEL MYALGIAS AND ARTHRALGIAS RECLASSIFIED AS ACUTE NEUROPATHY
- TOTAL CHEMOTHERAPY EXPOSURE ONLY RECOMMENDED PREVENTION STRATEGY



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## ASCO CIPN UPDATE: PREVENTION

<p><b>NOT RECOMMENDED: POTENTIALLY HARMFUL</b></p>  <p>Acetyl-L-carnitine</p>	<p><b>RECOMMENDED IN CLINICAL TRIAL: REQUIRES MORE DATA</b></p>  <p>Acupuncture Cryotherapy Compression therapy Exercise therapy Ganglioside-monosialic acid (GM-1)</p>	<p><b>NOT RECOMMENDED: NO BENEFIT FOUND</b></p>  <p>Amitriptyline Calcium magnesium Gabapentin/pregabalin Omega-3 fatty acids Venlafaxine Vitamin B Vitamin E</p>
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ASCO Guideline Update. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.20.01399

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## CRYOTHERAPY

KEEPING HANDS AND FEET COLD DURING  
CHEMOTHERAPY ADMINISTRATION



The slide features a light blue background with water droplets. It contains three inset images: the top one shows a person's hands being treated with a cryotherapy device; the bottom-left one shows hands holding several ice cubes; the bottom-right one shows a hand pouring a white, powdery substance (dry ice) from a container.

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## CRYOTHERAPY: POTENTIAL BENEFIT

**HANAI, A ET AL. 2018**

- FROZEN GLOVES AND SOCKS
- PATIENTS WERE OWN CONTROLS

**RUDDY, KJ ET AL. 2019**

- IMPROVEMENT SHOWN WITH POOLED CONTROL GROUPS FROM OTHER STUDIES

Breast 48:89-97, 2019  
J Natl Cancer Inst 110:141-148, 2018

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## ASCO TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>For painful neuropathy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duloxetine</li></ul>
<b>Not recommended outside of clinical trial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exercise therapy</li><li>• Acupuncture</li><li>• Scrambler therapy</li><li>• Gabapentin/pregabalin</li><li>• Topical gel treatment containing baclofen, amitriptyline HCL, plus/minus ketamine</li><li>• Tricyclic antidepressants</li><li>• Oral cannabinoids</li></ul>

ASCO Guideline Update. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.20.01399

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## TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Amitriptyline, nortriptyline, desipramine and imipramine	Moved from: "reasonable to try" to "not recommended"	Lack of evidence for efficacy in treating CIPN
No new clinical trials since last update	Unfavorable side effects: drowsiness, irregular heart rate, confusion in older patients	

ASCO Guideline Update. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.20.01399

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## GABAPENTINOIDS GABAPENTIN AND PREGABALIN

Evidence for treating established CIPN is inconclusive

More clinical trials required before routine use endorsed by ASCO

Some insurance companies require failed trial of gabapentinoid before duloxetine

ASCO Guideline Update. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.20.01399

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## PREGABALIN VERSUS DULOXETINE

### BREAST CANCER PATIENTS TREATED WITH PACLITAXEL OR DOCETAXEL

Pregabalin

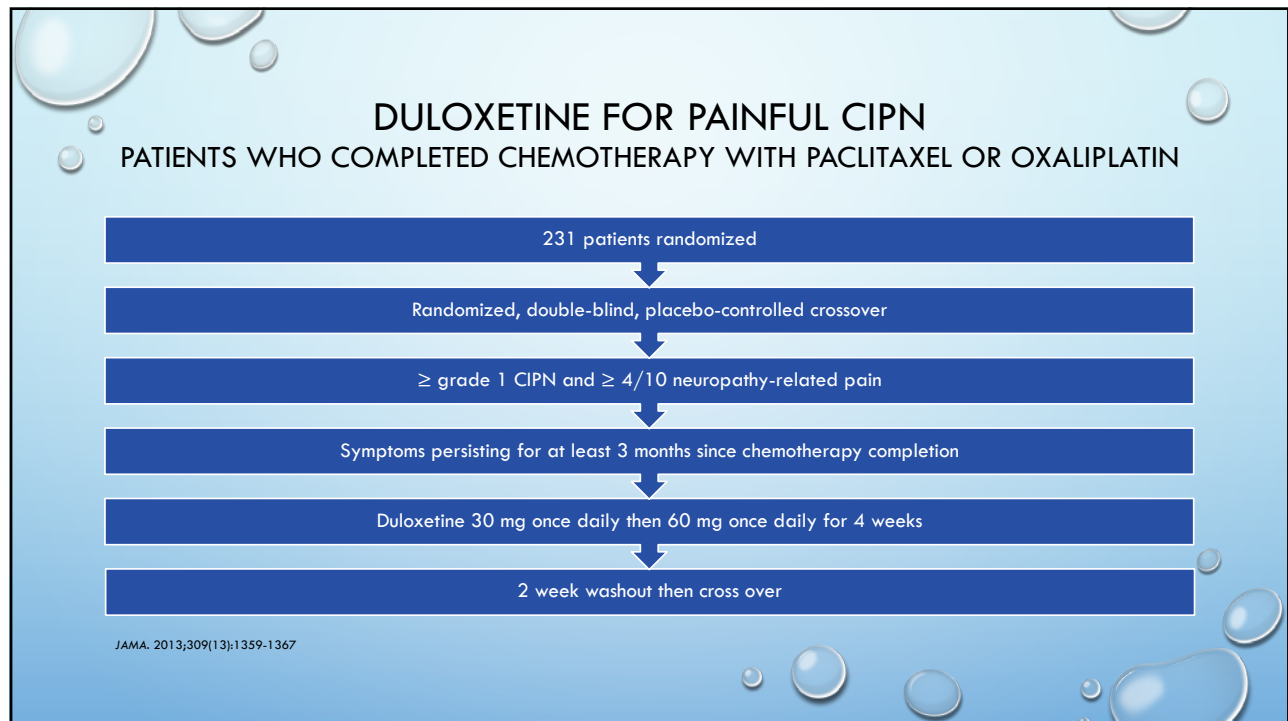
- 75 mg once daily x 1 week
- 150 mg twice daily x 5 weeks
- N=40
- Visual analog scale (VAS) scores improved in 37/40 (92.5%)

Duloxetine

- 30 mg once daily x 1 week
- 30 mg twice daily x 5 weeks
- N=42
- Visual analog scale (VAS) scores improved in 16/42 (38.1%)

Salehifar E et al. Clin Drug Investig. 2020 Mar;40(3):249-257. doi: 10.1007/s40261-019-00882-6.  
Avan R et al. J Res Med Sci. 2018;23:52. doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2017.11.013

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## CANCER – RELATED FATIGUE

CANCER-RELATED FATIGUE IS A DISTRESSING, PERSISTENT, SUBJECTIVE SENSE OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND/OR COGNITIVE TIREDNESS OR EXHAUSTION RELATED TO CANCER OR CANCER TREATMENT THAT IS NOT PROPORTIONAL TO RECENT ACTIVITY AND INTERFERES WITH USUAL FUNCTIONING.

NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## EVALUATING AND ASSESSING FATIGUE

CTCAE Term	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Fatigue	Fatigue relieved by rest	Fatigue not relieved by rest; limiting instrumental ADL	Fatigue not relieved by rest; limiting self care ADL	----	----
<p><b>Definition:</b> A disorder characterized by a state of generalized weakness with a pronounced inability to summon sufficient energy to accomplish daily activities.</p>					

Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) v5.0

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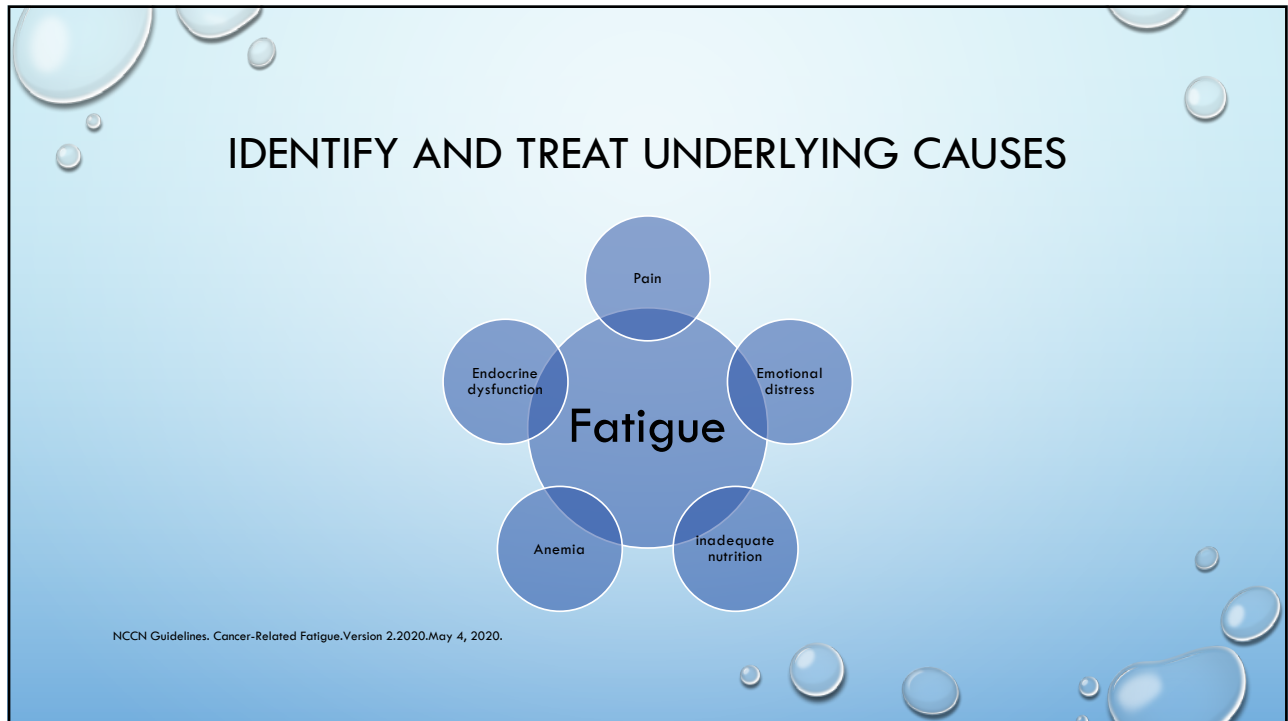
## EVALUATING AND ASSESSING FATIGUE

- SCALE OF 1-10
  - 0= NO FATIGUE AND 10= WORST FATIGUE YOU CAN IMAGINE
  - 0-3= NONE TO MILD
  - 4-6= MODERATE
  - 7-10= SEVERE
- DESCRIPTION
  - NONE
  - MILD
  - MODERATE
  - SEVERE

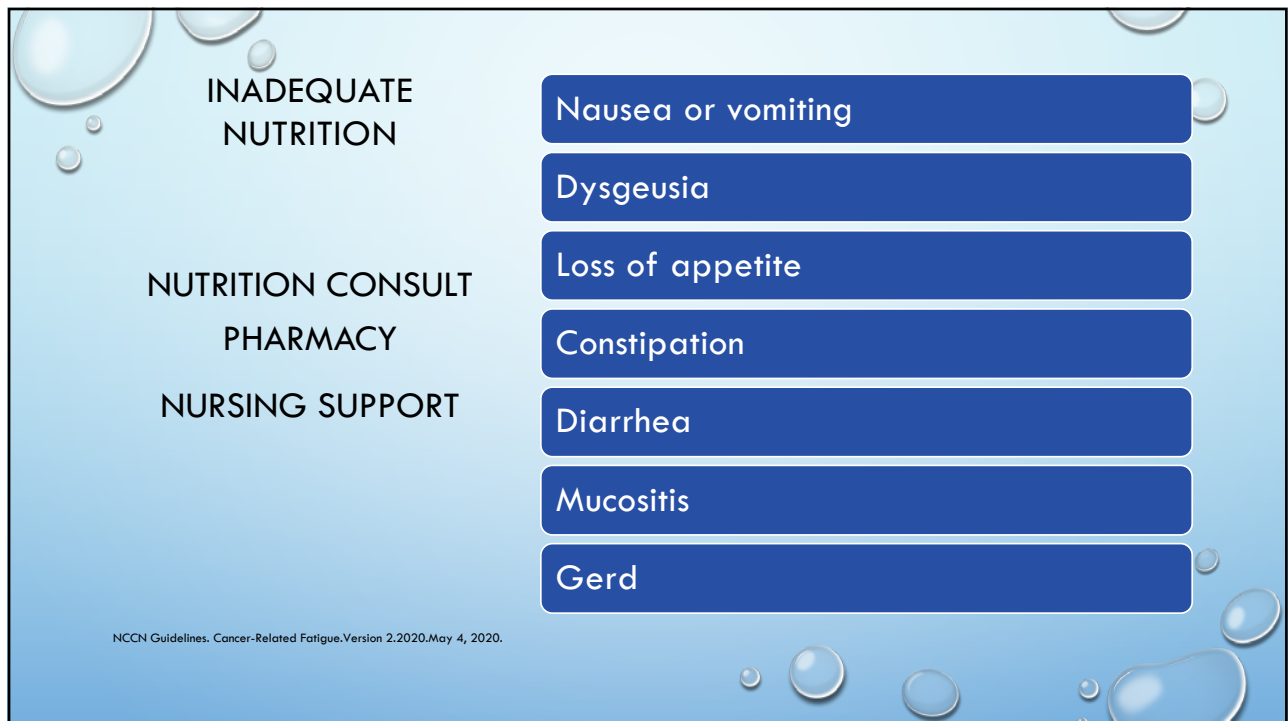
. NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## PAIN AND EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

The diagram features four dark blue rectangular boxes arranged in a diamond shape on a light blue background with water bubbles. The top box contains the text 'Sleep interruptions', the bottom box 'Side effects of medication', the left box 'Insomnia', and the right box 'Reduced activity'.

Insomnia      Sleep interruptions      Reduced activity

Side effects of medication

NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## ANEMIA AND ENDOCRINE DISTURBANCES

- ANEMIA
  - IRON REPLACEMENT
  - TRANSFUSION
- HYPOTHYROIDISM
  - REPLACEMENT
- ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY
- HYPOGONADISM
- HOT FLASHES

NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

# Sleep Hygiene

Avoid caffeine/nicotine in late afternoon	Consistent schedule	Avoid bright light in evenings	Turn off electronics 30 minutes before	Eat light at night
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## NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

<b>Physical activity</b>	<b>Yoga</b>	<b>Patient Specific Considerations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walk 30 minutes most days of the week</li><li>• Cardiovascular endurance</li><li>• Resistance training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twice weekly</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bone metastasis</li><li>• Thrombocytopenia/anemia</li><li>• Recent surgery</li><li>• Safety issues (e.g. falling)</li></ul>

NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

<b>Methylphenidate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active treatment</li> <li>• Advanced cancer</li> <li>• End of life</li> </ul>
<b>Corticosteroids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term use</li> <li>• Advanced cancer</li> </ul>
<b>Nutritional supplements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconclusive</li> </ul>
<b>Modafinil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not recommended</li> </ul>
<b>Antidepressants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not recommended</li> </ul>

NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020.

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## METHYLPHENIDATE

- USE WITH CAUTION
- FIRST RULE OUT AND TREAT UNDERLYING CAUSES
- SHOWS IMPROVEMENT IN FATIGUE COMPARED TO PLACEBO
- OPTIMAL DOSING IN CANCER PATIENTS AND OLDER ADULTS NOT ESTABLISHED
  - METHYLPHENIDATE 5 MG TO 36 MG DAILY IN TRIALS
  - METHYLPHENIDATE 5 MG ONCE DAILY STARTING DOSE
- SIDE EFFECTS
  - HEADACHE
  - NAUSEA

Cancer Care (Engl). 2016;25(6):970-979  
 NCCN Guidelines. Cancer-Related Fatigue. Version 2.2020. May 4, 2020  
 J Clin Oncol. 2010 Aug 10;28(23):3673-9

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## REFERENCES

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- HAYAMA T, MIURA K, UCHIKE A, ET AL. CLINICAL PREDICTION MODEL FOR INFUSION-RELATED REACTIONS TO RITUXIMAB IN PATIENTS WITH B CELL LYMPHOMAS. *INT J CLIN PHARM*. 2017 APR;39(2):380-385. DOI: 10.1007/S11096-017-0429-3. EPUB 2017 JAN 31
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