

# Durvalumab Gemcitabine Cisplatin (Neo/adjuvant bladder)

## Indication

Neoadjuvant and adjuvant bladder cancer

## Regimen details

### Cycles 1-4

Day	Drug	Route	Fluid	Time
1	Durvalumab 1500mg	IV	100ml 0.9% sodium chloride	1 hour
		IV	1litre 0.9% sodium chloride +20mmol potassium chloride +10mmol magnesium sulphate	2 hours
	Cisplatin 70mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	1 litre 0.9% sodium chloride	2 hours
		IV	1litre 0.9% sodium chloride +20mmol potassium chloride +10mmol magnesium sulphate	2 hours
	Gemcitabine 1000mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	250ml 0.9% NaCl	30 mins
8	Gemcitabine 1000mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	250ml 0.9% NaCl	30 mins

### Cycle 5-12

Durvalumab 1500mg intravenous infusion only

## Cycle frequency

Cycles 1-4 are given every 21 days

Cycles 5-12 are given every 28 days

## Number of cycles

As above

## Administration

Durvalumab is given in 100ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 60 minutes through an intravenous line containing a sterile, low-protein binding 0.2 or 0.22 micron in-line filter. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of infusion-related reactions.

Gemcitabine is given intravenously over 30 minutes. Giving more slowly may increase the toxicity.

Cisplatin is given over 2 hours with hydration before and after as shown above.

## Pre-medication

As per antiemetic guidelines

## Emetogenicity

Cisplatin: high

Gemcitabine: low

Durvalumab: minimal

## Additional supportive medication

None

## Extravasation

Cisplatin – exfoliant  
Gemcitabine – neutral  
Durvalumab - neutral

## Investigations – pre first cycle

Standard network pre-SACT tests

## Investigations –pre subsequent cycles

FBC, U+E (including creatinine), LFT (including AST)

## Standard limits for administration to go ahead

If blood results not within range, authorisation to administer **must** be given by prescriber/ consultant.

Investigation	Limit
Neutrophil count	$\geq 1.0 \times 10^9/L$
Platelet count	$\geq 100 \times 10^9/L$
Creatinine clearance	$\geq 60$ mL/min
Bilirubin	$\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN
ALT/AST	$< 3 \times$ ULN

## Immunotherapy toxicity

Immunotherapy toxicities should be aggressively managed as can cause permanent and life-threatening complications. Refer to UKONS and ESMO guidance for treatment of immune related toxicities. Available at:

<https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/canceralliance/information-professionals/clinical-reference-groups/acute-oncology-crg-metastatic-spinal-cord-compression-mscc-crg>

## Dose modifications

Do not adjust dose of durvalumab

## Haematological toxicity

Day 1:

If neutrophils  $< 1.0 \times 10^9 /L$  and/or platelets  $< 100 \times 10^9 /L$  delay by 1 week and recheck FBC

Reduce cisplatin and gemcitabine to 75% doses if:

- treatment is delayed for  $> 2$  weeks due to haematological toxicity
- grade 4 neutropenia with fever
- grade 4 thrombocytopenia  $> 3$  days
- thrombocytopenia with bleeding
- afebrile grade 4 neutropenia (add prophylactic ciprofloxacin 500mg BD for 7 days for subsequent cycles)

Day 8:

Neutrophils		Platelets	Gemcitabine Dose
$\geq 1.0$	AND	$\geq 100$	100%
0.5–1.0	OR	50–99	75%
$< 0.5$	OR	$< 50$	Omit

## Renal Impairment

CrCl (mL/min)	Cisplatin Dose	Gemcitabine Dose
$\geq 60$	100%	100%
40–59	Split dose on days 1 & 8	100%
$< 40$	Omit	100% (consider dose reduction if $< 30$ ml/min)

## Hepatic impairment

Use gemcitabine in caution in hepatic impairment. Raised transaminases do not seem to cause dose limiting toxicity. If bilirubin > 1.5 x ULN, initiate gemcitabine at dose of 800mg/m<sup>2</sup>

Toxicity	Grade	Cisplatin dose	Gemcitabine dose (days 1 & 8)
Neurotoxicity	<1	100%	100%
	2	50%	100%
	3	Omit	100%
	4	Discontinue	Discontinue
Stomatitis/Mucositis	1	100%	100%
	2	Omit until <grade 1 then 75% dose	Omit until <grade 1 then 75% dose
	3	Omit until <grade 1 then 50% dose	Omit until <grade 1 then 50% dose
	4	Discontinue or omit until ≤ grade 1 then 50% dose	Discontinue or omit until ≤ grade 1 then 50% dose

## Adverse effects - for full details consult product literature/ reference texts

### • Serious side effects

Immunotherapy toxicity

Myelosuppression

Infertility

Interstitial pneumonitis, ARDS

Cardiotoxicity

Hepatotoxicity

Haemolytic uraemic syndrome\*

Ocular toxicity

Ototoxicity

Nephrotoxicity

Peripheral neuropathy

\*Gemcitabine should be discontinued at the first sign of microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia (such as rapidly falling haemoglobin with concomitant thrombocytopenia, elevated bilirubin, creatinine, blood urea nitrogen or LDH. Renal failure may not be reversible with discontinuation of therapy, dialysis may be required.

### • Frequently occurring side effects

Myelosuppression

Nausea and vomiting

Mucositis, stomatitis

Diarrhoea, constipation

Oedema

Haematuria

### • Other side effects

Raised transaminases

Alopecia

Fatigue

## Significant drug interactions – for full details consult product literature/ reference texts

Warfarin/coumarin anticoagulants: increased or fluctuating anticoagulant effects. Avoid if possible, consider switching patient to a low molecular weight heparin during treatment or if the patient continues taking an oral anticoagulant monitor the INR at least once a week and adjust dose accordingly.

Aminoglycoside antibiotics: increased risk of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity when given within 2 weeks of cisplatin.

Diuretics: increased risk of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity

Nephrotoxic drugs: increased nephrotoxicity ; not recommended

Ototoxic drugs: increased risk of ototoxicity

Lancashire & South Cumbria Cancer Network

Systemic Anticancer Treatment Protocol

Phenytoin: cisplatin reduces absorption and efficacy of phenytoin, monitor levels and adjust dose as necessary.  
Anti-gout agents: cisplatin may increase plasma concentration of uric acid therefore dose adjustments may be required to control hyperuricaemia and gout.

### **Additional comments**

### **References**

Gemcitabine SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7298/smpc>

Cisplatin SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100546/smpc>

Perioperative Durvalumab with Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Operable Bladder Cancer. Powels et al. N Engl J Med 2024;391:1773-1786

---

**THIS PROTOCOL HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY DR PARIKH, CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST**

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROTOCOL LIES WITH THE HEAD OF SERVICE**

Date: February 2026

Review: February 2028

VERSION: 1

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information in a given protocol it cannot be guaranteed that the protocol is fully up to date. Cancer treatment can be dynamic in nature. Decisions on SACT must therefore be based on the independent judgement of the clinician with reference to changing information on the medicine (eg, available literature and SmPC) and evolving medical practices.

---