

# ABCP (atezolizumab, bevacizumab carboplatin and paclitaxel)

The possible benefits of this treatment vary; for some people chemotherapy may reduce the risk of the cancer coming back, for others it may control the cancer and its symptoms. Your doctor will explain to you whether you will receive chemotherapy or another type of treatment, or a combination of both. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you have about your treatment. You will find it useful to refer to the booklet 'Chemotherapy, a guide' which gives general information on chemotherapy and side effects.

## Your treatment

Your doctor or nurse clinician has prescribed for you a course of treatment, which includes atezolizumab, bevacizumab, carboplatin and paclitaxel.

This is a combination of chemotherapy (carboplatin and paclitaxel) with immunotherapy (atezolizumab) and a targeted biological therapy (bevacizumab). The treatment is given into a vein via a drip. The treatment consists of 2 stages.

### Induction treatment with 4 drugs:

- Atezolizumab (Tecentriq®) is given by a subcutaneous injection in the thigh, this should take around 7 minutes. In some cases it may be given by an infusion via an infusion (drip). The first infusion will last 60 minutes. All subsequent infusions will be for 30 minutes. You will usually be seen by a doctor or nurse clinician and have a routine blood test before the start of each cycle or treatment.
- Bevacizumab is given via a drip lasting 30-90 mins
- Paclitaxel is given via a drip lasting 3 hours
- Carboplatin is given via a drip lasting 60 mins

This stage of treatment is repeated every 3 weeks for a total of 4 cycles.

The length of the atezolizumab and bevacizumab infusions may be reduced if you tolerate the infusions without any reactions.

### Maintenance treatment with 2 drugs:

- Atezolizumab is given via an injection under the skin over 7 minutes.
- Bevacizumab is given via a drip over 30-90 mins

The maintenance stage of treatment may be administered every 3 weeks up to a maximum of 35 cycles in total (2 years).

You will have a routine blood test before the start of each cycle of treatment.

Occasionally, we may not be able to go ahead with your treatment until your blood counts are back to a safe level. If this happens, your chemotherapy may be delayed a week.

This treatment can have serious or possibly life-threatening side effects. It is very important that you report side effects straight away. Don't delay, if you feel unwell, please ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. The lines are open 24 hours a day.



## Kidney function

It is important to monitor how your kidneys are working while you are having treatment. We can do this by checking your blood results or we may ask you to attend for a 'GFR' (glomerular filtration rate) test to see how well your kidneys are working.

## If you are taking any other medicines

It is important to tell the doctor if you are taking medicine for any other condition. Some medicines can react or interfere with this treatment, so always tell your Christie doctor, nurse or pharmacist about any other medicines or tablets you are taking.

## Make sure your doctor knows if you:

- have any autoimmune disease
- have had any inflammation of the lungs (pneumonitis), HIV or hepatitis.

## Possible side effects

Chemotherapy can cause many different side effects. Some are more likely to occur than others. Everyone is different and not everyone gets all the side effects. Most side effects are usually temporary, but in some rare cases they can be life-threatening. It is important to tell your hospital doctor or nurse about any side effects so they can be monitored and, where possible, treated.

### • Allergic reactions (Warning!)

A small number of patients can have an allergic reaction to **paclitaxel** and very rarely to **carboplatin**. Occasionally reactions may also occur to **bevacizumab** and **atezolizumab**.

Reactions can include breathlessness, a feeling of dizziness, skin rashes, itching, a high temperature, shivering, redness of the face, headache, anxiety, and a desire to pass urine. You will be monitored throughout your treatment for any signs of an allergic reaction but it is important to tell your nurse or doctor if you have any of these signs, or feel unwell in any way.

To prevent this happening, we will give you pre-medication injections 30 minutes before starting the Paclitaxel treatment. If a reaction occurs the drip may need to be slowed down or stopped. You may feel tired or have a headache. These symptoms are related to your treatment and usually resolve when the infusion has finished. If you do have any reactions to your treatment, we may be able to give you additional medication to prevent this on your next infusion.

### • Subcutaneous Injection

As atezolizumab is given under the skin, you may experience injection site reactions. These reactions are usually mild and are commonly reported as pain at the injection site, reddened skin (erythema), or bruising at the injection site.

### • Extravasation

**Extravasation** is when chemotherapy leaks outside the vein. If you develop redness, soreness or pain at the injection site **at any time** please let us know straight away. Paclitaxel can cause pain where the injection is given, or along the vein. If you feel pain, tell your doctor or nurse as they can slow the drip to reduce the reaction.

## Common side effects (more than 1 in 10)

### • Increased risk of serious infection (Warning!)

You are vulnerable to infection while you are having chemotherapy. Minor infections can become life-threatening in a matter of hours if left untreated. Symptoms of infection include fever, shivering, sweats, sore throat, diarrhoea, discomfort when you pass urine, cough or breathlessness. We recommend that you use a digital thermometer so you can check your temperature. You can buy one from your local chemist.

**If you feel unwell, you have symptoms of an infection or your temperature is 37.5°C or above, or below 36°C contact The Christie Hotline straight away.**

- **Anaemia - low number of red blood cells (Warning!)**

While having this treatment you may become anaemic. This may make you feel tired and breathless. Let your doctor or nurse know if these symptoms are a problem. You may need a blood transfusion.

- **Nausea and vomiting (sickness)**

The severity of this varies from person to person. Anti-sickness medication may be given along with your chemotherapy to prevent this. You may also be given anti-sickness tablets to take at home. If you continue to feel or be sick, contact your GP or The Christie, because your anti-sickness medication may need to be changed or increased.

- **Diarrhoea**

If diarrhoea occurs, you should take loperamide. Take 2 capsules as soon as the first liquid stool occurs. Then take one capsule with each liquid stool up to a maximum of 8 in 24 hours. If you continue to have more than 3 liquid stools a day, if you are having diarrhoea at night or if the diarrhoea continues for more than 3 days, contact The Christie Hotline number for advice. You should also contact The Christie Hotline if you have any blood or mucus in your stools, if they become darker in colour, or if you develop any tenderness or pain in your abdomen.

- **Hair loss**

Hair loss is usually total. The hair falls out gradually 10 to 14 days following your first course of treatment. Body and facial hair can also fall out. The time scale varies from person to person. Please remember that this is a temporary side effect and your hair will grow back when your treatment is complete. Very rarely, hair loss can be permanent.

The cancer information centre offers a coping with hair loss service to all patients where support, information and advice will be given. Drop in, contact **0161 446 8100** or email **the-christie.informationcentre@nhs.uk**. Information about the wig service can also be found here and vouchers for wigs can also be obtained for eligible patients. The wig room provides a drop in service, please see The Christie leaflet 'The wig fitting service' for further information.

The Maggie's Centre can support you with hair loss by helping you consider the practicalities as well as the emotional impact, Maggie's provides expert care and support to everyone with cancer and those who love them. You can call into Maggie's Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm to speak with their professional team, their address is Maggie's Manchester at The Robert Parfett Building, 15 Kinnaird Road, Manchester, M20 4QL or you can call them on **0161 641 4848** or email **manchester@maggies.org**

- **Tingling and numbness in the fingers or toes**

This is due to the effect of the chemotherapy on the nerves and is known as peripheral neuropathy. You may also notice that you have difficulty doing up buttons or similar tasks. Tell your doctor if you notice any numbness or tingling in your hands or feet. This usually improves a few months after treatment has finished although this may be permanent.

- **Lethargy**

Some chemotherapy may make you feel tired and lacking in energy. It can be frustrating when you feel unable to cope with routine tasks. If you do feel tired, take rest and get help with household chores. If necessary, take time off work. Gentle exercise, such as walking, can be beneficial.

**IF YOU EXPERIENCE PROFOUND TIREDNESS**, when you do not feel able to get out of bed, or feel dizzy or faint, contact The Christie Hotline number without delay. This may be related to inflammation of the hormone producing glands (see page 5).

- **Muscle and joint pains**

Sometimes you may experience pain in the muscles in your legs. A simple painkiller will help. Ask your doctor for advice on this.

- **Sore mouth**

Your mouth may become sore or dry, or you may notice small mouth ulcers during this treatment. Drinking plenty of fluids and cleaning your teeth regularly and gently with a soft toothbrush can help to reduce the risk of this happening. We can prescribe a mouthwash for you to use during treatment. You can dilute this with water if your mouth is painful. Ask your doctor or nurse for further advice. There is also general mouth care information in the chemotherapy booklet. If you continue to have a sore mouth, please contact The Christie Hotline.

- **Low blood pressure**

Your blood pressure will be checked during your treatment. Tell your doctor if you feel faint or dizzy.

- **High blood pressure**

You will need your blood pressure checking throughout your treatment as some patients experience a rise in their blood pressure measurements. Most patients don't experience any problems due to this but will be started on tablets to control their blood pressure. These medications can usually be stopped once Bevacizumab treatment has stopped. Doses of Bevacizumab may need to be missed until your blood pressure is under control.

- **Protein in the urine**

This can occur due to effects of Bevacizumab on the kidneys. It doesn't normally cause symptoms but requires careful monitoring. Before each dose of treatment you will have your urine tested for protein. If protein is identified you may need to have a 24-hour urine collection to assess how well your kidneys are working. Bevacizumab may be stopped until the protein found in the urine has resolved.

- **Change in voice (hoarseness)**

This treatment may cause hoarseness – this affects how your voice sounds and how loudly you can speak. The hoarseness can resolve by itself, but to relieve the discomfort you should drink plenty of water to help soothe your throat. Avoid irritants such as tobacco smoke and dry environments caused by central heating or air conditioning. Having lozenges and cough sweets may help with the discomfort.

- **Constipation**

Try to drink plenty of fluids. Report this to your hospital doctor or nurse who can advise you regarding diet and who may prescribe a suitable laxative. Ask the staff for a copy of Eating - help yourself which has useful ideas about diet when you are having treatment.

- **Skin rash**

This can vary from mild to severe. Contact The Christie Hotline or your medical team if the rash covers more than half of your body, if it is very itchy or painful, if you develop blisters or peeling skin or if you have sores in your mouth.

## **Uncommon side effects (less than 1 in 10)**

- **Bruising or bleeding (Warning!)**

This treatment can reduce the production of platelets which help the blood clot. Let your doctor know if you have any unexplained bruising or bleeding, such as nosebleeds, bloodspots or rashes on the skin, and bleeding gums. You may need a platelet transfusion.

Minor nose bleeds are commonly seen in patients receiving chemotherapy. However, if you develop unusual bruising or bleeding contact the hotline number for advice immediately. Due to the increased risk of bleeding you should not take high-dose aspirin (more than 300mg daily) although low-dose aspirin (75mg daily) can be continued.

- **Blood clots**

There is an increased risk of blood clots in patients receiving bevacizumab. This can cause a variety of symptoms depending on which blood vessel the clot is affecting. Therefore, it is very important that if you have any swelling, tenderness or pain around the calf muscle in your lower leg that you phone The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** for advice. **If you get sudden onset chest pain or shortness of breath then you should dial 999 immediately. If you do develop a blood clot you will need to have treatment to thin your blood and dissolve the clot.**

- **Slow wound healing**

Bevacizumab can slow the healing of wounds. Your doctor will discuss this with you if you have a post-operative scar or if surgery is planned after a course of chemotherapy and Bevacizumab.

- **Inflammation of the bowel leading to bowel perforation**

Your bowel may become very inflamed and a small hole can sometimes develop in the wall of the bowel. You will be closely monitored when you come for treatment but if you develop any pain or abdominal swelling contact the hotline number for advice immediately.

- **Inflammation of the lungs**

This treatment can cause inflammation of the lungs which is potentially serious. Call The Christie Hotline if you have any shortness of breath or a cough.

- **Inflammation of the liver**

We will check your liver blood tests before each infusion, but contact The Christie Hotline if you develop yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), have very dark urine or pain on the right side of your stomach.

- **Inflammation of the hormone producing glands**

Sometimes Atezolizumab may cause inflammation of the glands that produce vital hormones (especially the pituitary, adrenal and thyroid glands) which in turn can affect the way they work. Contact The Christie if you develop any of the following: headaches, blurred or double vision, profound tiredness, decreased sexual drive or if you become irritable or forgetful.

- **Inflammation of the nerves**

Contact The Christie if you develop muscle weakness, numbness or tingling in your hands or feet, or any dizziness or loss of consciousness.

- **Inflammation of the eyes**

Sometimes Atezolizumab can cause the eyes to become inflamed. Contact The Christie if you develop any redness or pain in your eye or if you develop any problems with your vision.

- **Immune-related kidney problems**

This is caused when the kidneys become inflamed and can stop working properly. We will be monitoring your kidney function carefully but contact The Christie Hotline if you find that you are very tired or if you notice that you are passing less urine than usual.

- **Changes in heart rate**

Paclitaxel can sometimes cause a temporary slowing of the heart rate known as bradycardia. This usually does not cause any harm.

- **Abdominal pain**

This may start a few days after finishing chemotherapy and may last for a few days. Please contact The Christie if this happens. Your doctor can prescribe painkillers if appropriate.

- **Changes of taste**

You may notice that food tastes different. Normal taste normally comes back after treatment finishes.

- **Nail changes**

This treatment may cause nail changes and discolouration of the nail bed. These changes should be temporary and the condition of your nails should improve when treatment finishes.

## **Rare side effects (less than 1 in 100)**

- **Very high blood pressure**

If your blood pressure becomes very high it can cause symptoms such as headaches, sleepiness, sickness, confusion and fits. If you experience these symptoms you should attend the nearest Accident and Emergency department for assessment.

Before carrying out any dental work you are strongly advised to consult your oncology team. Although very rare, there is a risk of developing complications of the jaw bone including breakdown of the jaw bone and non-healing following dental treatment such as extraction. This risk is greater when having this treatment with other drugs such as bisphosphonates, and this type of dental treatment should be avoided wherever possible.

## **Serious and potentially life threatening side effects**

In a small proportion of patients chemotherapy can result in very severe side effects which may rarely result in death. The team caring for you will discuss the risk of these side effects with you.

Not all side effects are listed above and there may be some rare and unusual side effects that we are unaware of. Please contact your medical team if you experience any unusual symptoms.

## **Sex, contraception and fertility**

**Protecting your partner and contraception:** We recommend that you or your partner use a condom during sexual intercourse while you are having the course of chemotherapy. Chemotherapy is dangerous to unborn babies and this will also protect you and your partner from any chemotherapy drugs that may be present in semen and in the vagina. If you suspect that you may be pregnant please tell your doctor immediately.

**Fertility:** This chemotherapy may affect your ability to have children. Your doctor or nurse should have discussed this with you. If not, please ask them before you start treatment.

**Loss of periods:** Due to the effects of chemotherapy on the ovaries, you may find that your periods become irregular or may eventually stop. In younger women this may be temporary, but if you are closer to your menopause it may be permanent. This will result in hot flushes, sweats and vaginal dryness.

## **Late side effects**

Some side effects may become evident only after a number of years. In reaching any decision with you about treatment, the potential benefit you receive from treatment will be weighed against the risks of serious long term side effects to the heart, lungs, kidneys and bone marrow. With some drugs there is also a small but definite risk of developing another cancer. If any of these problems specifically applies to you, the doctor will discuss these with you and note this on your consent form.

## Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please ring:

Administration enquiries - **0161 918 7606/7610**

Chemotherapy nurse - **0161 918 7171**

Clinical trials unit - **0161 918 7663**

Lung cancer nurse team - **0161 918 2595**

For urgent advice ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Your doctor's secretary .....**0161** .....

Your consultant is: .....

Your hospital number is: .....

Your key worker is: .....

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If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for  
urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week