


# Oncological Treatment of Upper GI Cancer

## Pathway of Care

Kent & Medway Cancer Collaborative



Publication date	March 2023
Expected review date	March 2024
Version number	22
Version status	Final

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	<b>Genomic Testing</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1.1	NTRK Fusion Positive	4
1.1.2	Microsatellite Instability (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficiency	4
1.2	<b>Choice of Platinum / Fluoropyrimidine (or Raltitrexed)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Oesophageal Cancer and Type 1/2 Gastro-oesophageal Junction Cancer</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	<b>Squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.1	Neo-Adjuvant Chemoradiation	5
2.1.2	Radical Chemoradiotherapy	5
2.1.3	Peri-Operative Chemotherapy	6
2.2	<b>Adenocarcinoma of the Oesophagus or Type 1 Or 2 Gastro-Oesophageal Junction Cancer</b>	<b>7</b>
2.2.1	Peri-Operative Chemotherapy	7
2.2.2	Neo-Adjuvant Chemoradiation prior to surgery followed by adjuvant immunotherapy (if appropriate)	7
2.2.3	Adjuvant Chemoradiation	8
2.3	<b>Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Patients Receiving Upfront Surgery (i.e. Unsuitable for Treatment as per 2.1 and 2.2)</b>	<b>8</b>
2.4	<b>Palliative Radiotherapy</b>	<b>8</b>
2.5	<b>Palliative Chemotherapy</b>	<b>8</b>
2.5.1	First Line Palliative Chemotherapy	9
2.5.2	Second Line Palliative Chemotherapy	10
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Gastric / Type 3 Gastro-oesophageal junction Cancer</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	<b>Peri-Operative Chemotherapy</b>	<b>10</b>
3.2	<b>Adjuvant Chemoradiation</b>	<b>11</b>
3.3	<b>Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Patients Receiving Upfront Surgery</b>	<b>11</b>
3.4	<b>Palliative Chemotherapy</b>	<b>11</b>
3.4.1	First Line	12
3.4.2	Subsequent (2 <sup>nd</sup> line and Beyond) Palliative Chemotherapy	12
3.5	<b>Palliative Radiotherapy</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1	<b>Neo-Adjuvant</b>	<b>13</b>
4.2	<b>Adjuvant Chemotherapy</b>	<b>13</b>
4.3	<b>Adjuvant Chemoradiation (After Completion of Adjuvant Chemotherapy)</b>	<b>13</b>
4.4	<b>Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Disease</b>	<b>13</b>
4.5	<b>Palliative Chemotherapy</b>	<b>14</b>
4.5.1	First Line	14

4.5.2	Second Line Palliative Chemotherapy .....	14
4.6	Palliative Radiotherapy.....	14
5.0	<b>Cholangiocarcinoma / Gall Bladder Carcinoma .....</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1	Adjuvant Chemotherapy.....	15
5.2	Palliative Chemotherapy .....	15
6.0	<b>Hepatocellular Carcinoma .....</b>	<b>16</b>
6.1	Localised Disease.....	16
6.2	Palliative Chemotherapy .....	16
7.0	<b>Small Bowel Carcinoma.....</b>	<b>17</b>
7.1	Adjuvant Chemotherapy.....	17
7.2	Palliative Chemotherapy Indications .....	17
8.0	<b>Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours .....</b>	<b>18</b>
8.1	Adjuvant Therapy .....	18
8.2	Palliative Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy.....	18
9.0	<b>Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours .....</b>	<b>20</b>
9.1	Adjuvant Therapy .....	20
9.2	First Line Metastatic Therapy.....	20
9.3	Second Line Metastatic Therapy.....	20
9.4	Third Line Metastatic Therapy.....	20
10.0	<b>Guidelines on the Management of Drug-specific Toxicity.....</b>	<b>21</b>
10.1	DPD Testing.....	21
10.2	Uridine Triacetate .....	21
11.0	<b>Appendix A: Clinical Trials .....</b>	<b>22</b>
12.0	<b>Appendix B: KMCC guidelines on managing cardiac toxicity for patients receiving trastuzumab.....</b>	<b>22</b>
13.0	<b>Personnel and Contact Information .....</b>	<b>23</b>
14.0	<b>GLOSSARY.....</b>	<b>23</b>
15.0	<b>DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>24</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

---

This document has been written to provide guidance on the treatment of Upper GI cancer in the Kent & Medway Cancer Collaborative

Radiotherapy schedules are as defined in the Kent Oncology Centre Quality System Clinical Protocols (Disease Management and Radiotherapy Protocols).

See network chemotherapy prescribing proformas for details of chemotherapy / anti-cancer regimens.

All patients will be considered for entry into a clinical trial ([see appendix A](#)).

All patients should be discussed within a multidisciplinary team meeting before commencing initial treatment.

Please note, some of the drugs/doses recommended within this document are outside of the U.K. licensed marketing authorisation.

To allow for flexibility in the management of cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS England has endorsed interim treatment regimens for some cancer medicines. This is to reduce the need for direct patient contact for administration of drugs and to minimise potential side effects that make people more susceptible to viral infections and other ill-health effects that may add pressure to the health system. These interim treatment regimens can be access here:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng161/chapter/7-Modifications-to-usual-service#interim-nhs-england-treatment-regimens>

## 1.1 Genomic Testing

---

The National Genomic Test Directory specifies which genomic tests are commissioned by the NHS in England, the technology by which they are available, and the patients who will be eligible to access a test. This is in development; molecular testing for upper GI cancer in Kent will evolve in line with this guidance.

### 1.1.1 NTRK Fusion Positive

---

Patients with NTRK gene fusion may be considered for entrectinib or larotrectinib in line with commissioning criteria.

### 1.1.2 Microsatellite Instability (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficiency

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

## 1.2 Choice of Platinum / Fluoropyrimidine (or Raltitrexed)

---

Where indicated in the guidelines, CX or OX (oxaliplatin & capecitabine) or FOLFOX is considered standard treatment. The following drugs may be used as alternatives in the following situations:

- Consider substitution of Cisplatin with Carboplatin (AUC 5) if renal (GFR 30-60mls/min) or auditory dysfunction.
- Consider substitution of Capecitabine with 5FU 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day continuous infusion if unable to swallow tablets.
- Consider substitution of Fluoropyrimidine with Raltitrexed in the event of Fluoropyrimidine induced chest pain.

## 2.0 OESOPHAGEAL CANCER AND TYPE 1/2 GASTRO-OESOPHAGEAL JUNCTION CANCER

---

Definitions of gastro-oesophageal junction cancers:

- Type I: adenocarcinoma of the distal oesophagus (epicentre of lesion 1-5 cm above GOJ)
- Type II: adenocarcinoma of the cardia (epicentre of lesion up to 1 cm above and 2 cm below GOJ)
- Type III: sub-cardial type adenocarcinoma (epicentre of lesion 2-5 cm below GOJ)

## 2.1 Squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus

---

### 2.1.1 Neo-Adjuvant Chemoradiation

---

Neo-adjuvant chemoradiation may be considered for selected oesophageal cancer patients and should be agreed at MDT

#### Indications:

- Potentially operable oesophageal cancer
- Performance status 0-1
- T3 N 0-2. Max 5cm tumour length
- T4 if only involving diaphragmatic crus.
- All nodes above diaphragm
- Minimal comorbidity
- Squamous carcinoma
- Agreed at MDT

#### Chemoradiotherapy regimen:

- Paclitaxel 175mg/m<sup>2</sup> + Carboplatin AUC 5 every 21 days for 2 cycles prior to chemoradiation, then
- Paclitaxel 50mg/m<sup>2</sup> + Carboplatin AUC 2 weekly for 5 weeks.
- Concurrent radiotherapy as defined in the Kent Oncology Centre Quality Systems Clinical Protocols (Disease management and Radiotherapy Protocols).

If there is pathological residual disease at surgery and a complete surgical resection patients can be considered for adjuvant nivolumab.

### 2.1.2 Radical Chemoradiotherapy

---

#### Indications:

- T4N0-1M0
- T1-3N0-1M0 unsuitable/unwilling for surgery (may be considered in preference to surgery for squamous cell carcinoma)

#### Treatment

- Primary chemotherapy with CX, CarboX, CarboF, CF x 2 cycles
- Chemoradiation with:

One 21 day cycle of CX (cisplatin 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> on D1 and capecitabine 625mg/m<sup>2</sup> bd D1-21) concomitantly with radiotherapy (50Gy/25 fractions) followed by CX (cisplatin 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> on D1 and capecitabine 625mg/m<sup>2</sup> bd **D1-14**) concomitantly with radiotherapy (50Gy/25 fractions) NB: Capecitabine stops on last day of RT.

OR

One 21 day cycle of CF (cisplatin 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> on D1 and 5-Fluorouracil 200mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day D1-21) concomitantly with radiotherapy (50Gy/25 fractions) followed by CF (cisplatin 60mg/m<sup>2</sup> on D1 and 5-Fluorouracil 200mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day D1-14) concomitantly with radiotherapy (50Gy/25 fractions)

NB: 5-fluorouracil stops on last day of RT.

Carboplatin may be used in place of cisplatin for patients with renal impairment or ototoxicity.

Carboplatin + paclitaxel to be used in selected patients who are unlikely to tolerate Cisplatin / Fluoropyridimine. Alternatively, infused 5-fluorouracil with concurrent radiotherapy may be considered for less fit patients.

Concurrent radiotherapy as defined in the Kent Oncology Centre Quality Systems Clinical Protocols (Disease management and Radiotherapy Protocols).

### **Tumour assessment**

- OGD, CT scan, EUS pre-treatment. Consider PET/CT scan and staging laparoscopy.
- CT scan after 4 cycles of chemotherapy or earlier if no symptom response.
- CT scan and OGD (plus biopsy) 12 weeks post completion of chemoradiation
- Consider surgical resection if residual carcinoma present.

For patients who may be suitable for salvage surgery, 3 monthly OGD and CT scan for 2 years, then 6-monthly for year 3 then annually to 5 years.

### **2.1.3 Peri-Operative Chemotherapy**

---

#### **Indications:**

Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma considered suitable for curative resection and not suitable for neo-adjuvant chemo-radiation:

- T1, N1-3, M0
- T2a, N0-3, M0
- T2b, N0-3, M0
- T3, N0-3, M0

#### **Treatment**

- CX, CF, Carbo X, CarboF x 3 cycles preoperative and 3 cycles post-operative.

#### **Tumour assessment**

- OGD, CT scan, PET-CT. Laparoscopy pre-treatment and EUS for tumours involving oesophago-gastric junction as determined by MDT.
- CT scan post completion of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

#### **Surgery**

Surgery should be performed 6 weeks after completion of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

## 2.2 Adenocarcinoma of the Oesophagus or Type 1 Or 2 Gastro-Oesophageal Junction Cancer

---

### 2.2.1 Peri-Operative Chemotherapy

---

#### Indications:

Oesophageal and gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma considered suitable for curative resection:

- T1, N1-3, M0
- T2a, N0-3, M0
- T2b, N0-3, M0
- T3, N0-3, M0

#### Treatment

- FLOT (only for patients with PS 0-1) x 4 cycles pre-operative and 4 cycles post-operative
- If not suitable for FLOT consider oxaliplatin and modified de Gramont x 4 cycles pre-operative and 4 cycles post-operative
- Or CX, CF, Carbo X, CarboF, OX x 3 cycles preoperative and 3 cycles post-operative.

#### Tumour assessment

- OGD, CT scan, PET-CT. Laparoscopy pre-treatment and EUS for tumours involving oesophagogastric junction as determined by MDT.
- CT scan post completion of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

#### Surgery

Surgery should be performed 6 weeks after completion of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

### 2.2.2 Neo-Adjuvant Chemoradiation prior to surgery followed by adjuvant immunotherapy (if appropriate)

---

Neo-adjuvant chemoradiation may be considered for selected oesophageal cancer patients and should be agreed at MDT

#### Indications

- Potentially operable oesophageal cancer
- Performance status 0-1
- T3 N 0-2. Max 5cm tumour length
- T4 if only involving diaphragmatic crus.
- All nodes above diaphragm
- Minimal comorbidity
- Adenocarcinoma
- Agreed at MDT

#### Chemoradiotherapy regimen

- Paclitaxel 175mg/m<sup>2</sup> + Carboplatin AUC 5 every 21 days for 2 cycles prior to chemoradiation, then
- Paclitaxel 50mg/m<sup>2</sup> + Carboplatin AUC 2 weekly for 5 weeks.

Concurrent radiotherapy as defined in the Kent Oncology Centre Quality Systems Clinical Protocols (Disease management and Radiotherapy Protocols).

If there is pathological residual disease at surgery and a complete surgical resection patients can be considered for adjuvant nivolumab.

### 2.2.3 Adjuvant Chemoradiation

---

Adjuvant chemoradiation can be considered for patient with R1 or R2 resection.

Chemoradiation single agent Capecitabine or infused 5-fluorouracil with concurrent radiotherapy.

Concurrent radiotherapy as defined in the Kent Oncology Centre Quality Systems Clinical Protocols (Disease management and Radiotherapy Protocols).

## 2.3 Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Patients Receiving Upfront Surgery (i.e. Unsuited for Treatment as per 2.1 and 2.2)

---

### Indications

For patients undergoing surgery for oesophageal carcinoma without pre-operative chemotherapy, there is no proven role for adjuvant chemotherapy. However, in the presence of adverse risk factors (nodal involvement, positive surgical excision margins), adjuvant chemotherapy may be considered on an individual case basis.

### Treatment

- Squamous: 6 cycles of CX, CarboX, CF or CarboF
- Adenocarcinoma: 8 cycles of FLOT, or 6 cycles of CX, CarboX, CF or CarboF

Patients with positive surgical margins may also benefit from postoperative chemoradiation with continuous infusion 5FU 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day or Capecitabine 1250 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day with concurrent radiotherapy 50Gy in 25 fractions.

### Tumour assessment

End of treatment CT scan

## 2.4 Palliative Radiotherapy

---

Palliative external beam radiotherapy to the oesophagus can be offered for symptom control and for consolidating a good response to chemotherapy. The dose and fractionation depend on the stage of disease and performance status of the patient (refer to radiotherapy protocols). Oesophageal brachytherapy can be offered for re-treatment for symptom control.

## 2.5 Palliative Chemotherapy

---

Patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

Patients with adenocarcinoma should also be tested for HER2 expression, and PDL-1 CPS. Patients with squamous cell carcinoma should be tested for PDL-1 CPS.



## 2.5.1 First Line Palliative Chemotherapy

### Indications

- Metastatic disease
- Localised or locally advanced disease and patient unsuitable for or unwilling to receive 24 weeks combination treatment of Oxaliplatin, Fluoropyrimidine, surgery or radical chemoradiation
- Performance status 0-2

### Treatment

- **Pembrolizumab** may be used in combination with chemotherapy listed below for previously untreated advanced oesophageal (squamous or adenocarcinoma) or **HER-2 negative** gastroesophageal **adenocarcinoma** either of which expresses PD-L1 with a combined positive score of  $\geq 10$ .
- 6-8 cycles of:
  - OX
  - Oxaliplatin and de Gramont
- Or alternatively if oxaliplatin is unsuitable or squamous carcinoma:
  - CX
  - CF
  - Carbo X
  - CarboF
- **Nivolumab** in combination with platinum and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for previously untreated advanced or metastatic **HER-2 negative adenocarcinomas** of the stomach, gastro-oesophageal junction or oesophagus which express PD-L1 with a combined positive score (CPS) of 5 or more.
- **Nivolumab** in combination with fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-based combination chemotherapy (as listed below) is indicated for the first-line treatment of adult patients with unresectable advanced or metastatic **squamous cell or adenosquamous** carcinoma of the oesophagus with a tumour cell PD-L1 expression of  $\geq 1\%$  and a PD-L1 combined positive score of  $< 10$ .
  - Capecitabine & Oxaliplatin
- Or alternatively if oxaliplatin is unsuitable
  - Carbo X (UGI-007)
  - CX (UGI-006)
  - CF (UGI-005)
  - CarboF (UGI-008)
- CX, CF, CarboX, CarboF or OX (standard dose) with trastuzumab for **Her-2 positive adenocarcinoma** of the gastro oesophageal junction.

### Tumour assessment

- CT scan pre-treatment
- CT scan post 3-4 cycles (consider suitability for surgery if locally advanced disease down-staged)
- CT scan post 6-8 cycles

## 2.5.2 Second Line Palliative Chemotherapy

---

### Indications

Patients remaining of good performance status (0-1) following disease progression after first line palliative chemotherapy or radical chemoradiation.

### Treatment

- (i) Nivolumab for unresectable advanced, recurrent or metastatic oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma in adults after fluoropyrimidine and platinum-based therapy.
- (ii) Disease-free interval from completion of previous chemotherapy > 6 months; consider Platinum/ fluoropyrimidine based chemotherapy.
- (iii) Disease-free interval < 6 months; There is evidence for-Irinotecan/5FU/Leucovorin (FOLFIRI regimen) or single agent Docetaxel or weekly Paclitaxel. Consider referral for phase I/II clinical trials.
- (iv) Irinotecan & Capecitabine can be considered in selected patients. (Algorithm deviation)
- (v) Brachytherapy will be considered for patients previously treated with EBR that have local progression and symptoms such as dysphagia and pain.

### Tumour assessment

CT scan every 2-3 months

## 3.0 GASTRIC / TYPE 3 GASTRO-OESOPHAGEAL JUNCTION CANCER

---

### 3.1 Peri-Operative Chemotherapy

---

#### Indications

Gastric or oesophago-gastric junction adenocarcinoma considered suitable for curative resection:

- T1, N1-3, M0
- T2a, N0-3, M0
- T2b, N0-3, M0
- T3, N0-3, M0

#### Treatment

- FLOT (only for patients with PS 0-1) x 4 cycles pre-operative and 4 cycles post-operative
- CX, CF, Carbo X, CarboF, OX x 3 cycles or FOLFOX x 4 cycles preoperative and 3 cycles (4 cycles of FOLFOX) post-operative

#### Tumour assessment

- OGD, CT scan, PET-CT and laparoscopy pre-treatment. EUS for tumours involving oesophago-gastric junction
- CT scan post neo-adjuvant chemotherapy

#### Surgery

Surgery should be performed 6 weeks after completion of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

## 3.2 Adjuvant Chemoradiation

---

### Indications

Adjuvant chemoradiation would only be considered in individual cases after discussion in MDT if a patient has a very high risk of local failure. There is a limited evidence base for this treatment.

### Treatment

All cases to be discussed within an MDM.

Capecitabine or infused 5-fluoruracil with radiotherapy for 5 weeks.

### Tumour assessment

CT scan 3 months post completion of chemoradiation

## 3.3 Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Patients Receiving Upfront Surgery

---

### Indications

The role of adjuvant postoperative chemotherapy following resection of gastric cancer remains unclear. A large number of clinical trials have addressed this question, the majority of which have not demonstrated a benefit from treatment. However, many of these trials were of poor methodologic quality, were underpowered to demonstrate a small but clinically relevant survival advantage, and employed chemotherapy regimens with limited activity in the advanced disease setting. Several meta-analyses of these data have been undertaken, which demonstrate a small benefit for adjuvant chemotherapy over no post-operative treatment, with a hazard ratio for survival between 0.72 and 0.88. However, when analysed separately, the positive effect of chemotherapy on survival was confined to Asian trials, with no benefit observed in Western studies.

Therefore, at present, adjuvant chemotherapy should not be recommended routinely. However, in the presence of adverse risk factors (nodal involvement, positive surgical excision margins), adjuvant chemotherapy may be considered on an individual case basis.

### Treatment

- Squamous: 6 cycles of CX, CarboX, CF or CarboF
- Adenocarcinoma: 8 cycles of FLOT, or 6 cycles of CX, CarboX, CF or CarboF

### Tumour assessment

CT scan end of treatment

## 3.4 Palliative Chemotherapy

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

Patients with adenocarcinoma should also be tested for HER2 expression and PDL-1 CPS. Patients with squamous cell carcinoma should be tested for PDL-1 CPS.

### 3.4.1 First Line

---

#### Indications

- Metastatic disease
- Locally advanced disease
- Localised disease and patient unsuitable for or unwilling to receive 24 weeks combination treatment of Oxaliplatin, Fluoropyrimidine or surgery
- Performance status 0-2

#### Treatment

- Pembrolizumab may be used in combination with chemotherapy listed below for previously untreated advanced oesophageal (squamous or adenocarcinoma) or HER-2 negative gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma either of which expresses PD-L1 with a combined positive score of  $\geq 10$ .
- 6-8 cycles of:
  - OX
  - Oxaliplatin and deGramont
- Or alternatively if oxaliplatin is unsuitable:
  - CX
  - CF
  - Carbo X
  - CarboF

#### For HER-2 positive patients (IHC3+)

CX or CF, CarboX, CarboF or OX x 6 cycles + trastuzumab until progressive disease in line with NICE TA 208. (N.B. may also be used for patients with HER 2 overexpression as defined by IHC2-positive and a confirmatory SISH or FISH result who have not received prior anti-cancer treatment for their metastatic disease, funding streams for FISH testing are currently under discussion).

#### Tumour assessment

- CT scan pre-treatment
- CT scan post 3-4 cycles (consider suitability for surgery if locally advanced disease down-staged)
- CT scan post 6-8 cycles

### 3.4.2 Subsequent (2<sup>nd</sup> line and Beyond) Palliative Chemotherapy

---

#### Indications

Patients remaining of good performance status (0-1) following disease progression after first line palliative chemotherapy or peri-operative chemotherapy.

#### Treatment

- (i) Disease-free interval from completion of previous chemotherapy > 6 months; consider Platinum/fluoropyrimidine based chemotherapy.
- (ii) Disease-free interval < 6 months; Consider Irinotecan/5FU/Leucovorin (FOLFIRI regimen), single agent Docetaxel, weekly Paclitaxel or Ramucirumab with paclitaxel (funding approval required).

Consider referral for phase I/II clinical trials.

#### Tumour assessment

CT scan every 2-3 months

### 3.5 Palliative Radiotherapy

---

Palliative radiotherapy to the stomach can be offered for haemostasis if surgery is not indicated, or for pain management.

## 4.0 PANCREATIC ADENOCARCINOMA

---

### 4.1 Neo-Adjuvant

---

#### Treatment

- Gemcitabine
- PS 0-1 modified folfirinox\* or gemcitabine & capecitabine\*

\*NB Use palliative regimen.

### 4.2 Adjuvant Chemotherapy

---

#### Indications

Macroscopically completely resected pancreatic adenocarcinoma

#### Treatment

- Gemcitabine or Gemcitabine & Capecitabine depending on PS
- Adjuvant Modified Folfirinox x 12 cycles

#### Tumour assessment

- Post treatment CT scan
- Monitor Ca19.9 each cycle

### 4.3 Adjuvant Chemoradiation (After Completion of Adjuvant Chemotherapy)

---

Consider adjuvant chemoradiation in selected patients with R1 resection.

### 4.4 Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Disease

---

#### Indications

- Pancreatic adenocarcinoma confined to pancreas +/- local nodes not amenable to surgical resection
- Performance status 0-1

#### Treatment

- All patients should initially be offered 6 months of chemotherapy with a first line advanced disease protocol (see [section 3.3](#))
- If disease remains localized and amenable to radical chemoradiation, this may be considered as follows:
  - Capecitabine with concurrent radiotherapy.

#### Tumour assessment

- Pre-treatment CT scan (plus MRI/ EUS/ laparoscopy as required to determine inoperability)
- CT scan following 12 and 24 weeks Gemcitabine chemotherapy and 12 weeks after completion of chemoradiotherapy.

## 4.5 Palliative Chemotherapy

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

### 4.5.1 First Line

---

#### Indications

- Locally advanced inoperable adenocarcinoma of the pancreas
- Metastatic disease
- Performance status 0-2

#### Treatment for locally advanced disease:

- Gemcitabine
- PS 0-1 Palliative modified folfirinox or gemcitabine & capecitabine
- Chemoradiation

#### Treatment for metastatic disease:

- Albumin bound paclitaxel with gemcitabine can be considered only if other irinotecan or oxaliplatin based combination chemotherapies are unsuitable and the patient would otherwise have gemcitabine monotherapy. (Patients should be PS 0-1 and should have had no previous chemotherapy for early disease unless given as a radiation sensitiser in the adjuvant setting and completed at least 6 months previously).
- Folfirinox
- PS 1-2 - Gemcitabine until progression or intolerance

Patients with prolonged disease control (> 6 months) following adjuvant Gemcitabine who remain of good performance status upon disease relapse may be considered for Gemcitabine re-challenge or Fluoropyrimidine-based therapy.

#### Tumour assessment

- Pre-treatment CT scan
- CT scan after 12 weeks
- CT scan after 24 weeks
- Ca19.9 levels every 4 weeks

### 4.5.2 Second Line Palliative Chemotherapy

---

#### Treatment

Clinicians' choice of fluoropyrimidine/platinum or gemcitabine- based therapy depending on prior therapy.

#### Tumour assessment

CT scan pre-treatment and every 9-12 weeks during therapy

## 4.6 Palliative Radiotherapy

---

Palliative radiotherapy to the pancreas can be offered for pain control if other measures have failed such as opiates and nerve blocks. It can also be useful for haemostasis if the tumour is involving duodenum.

## 5.0 CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA / GALL BLADDER CARCINOMA

---

### 5.1 Adjuvant Chemotherapy

---

#### Treatment

Consider Capecitabine as per BILCAP trial or entry to clinical trial

#### Tumour assessment

- Post-operative CT scan
- CT scan post 6 cycles chemotherapy
- Monitor Ca19.9 each cycle

### 5.2 Palliative Chemotherapy

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

#### Indications

- Locally advanced inoperable cholangiocarcinoma
- Metastatic disease
- Performance status 0-2

#### Treatment

- Gemcitabine plus Cisplatin x 6-8 cycles (carboplatin may be used in patients who cannot tolerate cisplatin)
- Gemcitabine for a total of up to 24 weeks
- 6-8 cycles of:
  - OX
  - OF

Pemigatinib may be considered for fibroblast growth factor receptor 2 (FGFR2) fusion or rearrangement that is relapsed or refractory after at least one line of systemic therapy

#### Tumour assessment

- Pre-treatment CT scan
- CT scan after 12 weeks
- CT scan after 24 weeks
- Ca19.9 levels every 4 weeks

## 6.0 HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

---

### 6.1 Localised Disease

---

All patients should be referred to Kings College Hospital for consideration of resection or chemoembolisation.

### 6.2 Palliative Chemotherapy

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

#### Indications

- Locally advanced disease not amenable to loco-regional therapy
- Metastatic disease
- Performance status 0-2
- Child-Pugh status A (or low burden Child-Pugh B for sorafenib)

#### Treatment

- Atezolizumab and bevacizumab for 1st line systemic treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic and/or unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Sorafenib for 1<sup>st</sup> line, or 2<sup>nd</sup> line if atezolizumab and bevacizumab has been given first line, in patients with Child–Pugh A disease.
- Lenvatinib for 1st line, or 2nd line if atezolizumab and bevacizumab has been given first line, treatment in patients with Child–Pugh A disease.
- Regorafenib for the 2<sup>nd</sup> line systemic therapy of Child-Pugh A previously treated with sorafenib.
- Cabozantinib for second line of tyrosine kinase inhibitor systemic therapy of Child-Pugh A locally advanced or metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma previously treated with sorafenib.

#### Tumour assessment

- CT scan pre-chemotherapy
- CT scan post 3 cycles
- CT scan post 6 cycles
- AFP levels before each cycle



## 7.0 SMALL BOWEL CARCINOMA

---

### 7.1 Adjuvant Chemotherapy

---

#### Indications

There is no established role for adjuvant chemotherapy, but for selected patients with poor prognostic features, 6-8 cycles of OX, OF or OT may be considered.

### 7.2 Palliative Chemotherapy Indications

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

Advanced disease not amenable to surgical resection  
Performance status 0-2

#### Treatment

There is no standard treatment regimen.

Suitable patients may be considered for

- 6-8 cycles of:
  - OX
  - OF
- Or alternatively if oxaliplatin is unsuitable:
  - CX
  - CF
  - Carbo X
  - CarboF

#### Tumour assessment

- CT scan pre-treatment
- CT scan post 3-4 cycles
- CT scan post 6-8 cycles

## 8.0 GASTROENTEROPANCREATIC NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOURS

---

### 8.1 Adjuvant Therapy

---

#### Indications

There is no role for adjuvant therapy following surgical resection of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours.

Goblet cell carcinoid tumours of the appendix (adenocarcinoids) with lymph node involvement or T3N0 disease should be considered for adjuvant chemotherapy with 8 cycles of Capecitabine.

### 8.2 Palliative Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy

---

In selected cases patients with metastatic or locally advanced and unresectable upper gastrointestinal cancers, will be tested for microsatellite instability (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) and where appropriate treatment with nivolumab will be considered (interim COVID regimen).

A number of therapeutic options exist as follows:

- (i) Surgical resection of hepatic metastatic disease (Refer to Kings College Hospital)
- (ii) Embolisation (refer to Kings College Hospital) or radiofrequency ablation of hepatic metastatic disease (Refer to Maidstone Hospital or Kings College Hospital)
- (iii) Somatostatin analogue therapy
- (iv) Radiolabeled MIBG/ octreotide (Funding approval required.)
  - Peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (Lutetium 177 octreotate) should be considered for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic, progressive, well differentiated and somatostatin receptor positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine carcinoma.
- (v) Selective internal radiotherapy (SIRT) (Refer to Kings NET MDT) Funding approval required.
- (vi) Systemic anti-cancer therapy

#### Indications

Active therapy should be considered for:

- (i) Symptomatic metastatic disease (e.g. symptoms of the carcinoid syndrome, local symptoms due to tumour mass/ invasion such as pain, haemoptysis, cough, biliary obstruction)
- (ii) Rapidly progressive metastatic disease

#### Treatment

The choice of treatment will be dictated by the clinical situation.

##### (i) Somatostatin analogue therapy

Highly symptomatic patients should be commenced on a short acting preparation initially (e.g. octreotide 50 mcg s/c bd increased as necessary to 200 mcg tds SC)

Responding patients should then be converted onto a long acting preparation (e.g. Sandostatin LAR 20 mg IM 4-weekly, increased if necessary to 30 mg IM 4-weekly or Somatuline autogel 60 mg s/c 4-weekly, increased if necessary to 120 mg s/c 4-weekly)

**(ii) Systemic anti-cancer therapy**

There is no standard chemotherapy regimen for this disease. Patients with increased likelihood of response to chemotherapy are those with poorly differentiated tumours, particularly those with a high proliferative rate (Ki67>10%), pancreatic neuroendocrine carcinomas.

The following regimens may be considered.

- Streptozocin plus Capecitabine x 6 cycles
- Streptozocin plus Doxorubicin x 4 cycles
- Carboplatin plus Etoposide x 6 cycles
- Capecitabine plus Temozolomide x 6-8 cycles

There is increasing evidence for the use of targeted therapies in neuroendocrine tumours.

Sunitinib may be considered as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> line treatment for well differentiated pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours.

Everolimus may be considered for well differentiated pancreatic, non-functioning gastrointestinal or lung neuroendocrine tumours.

**Tumour assessment**

Baseline CT scan, octreotide scan, MIBG scan, 24-hour urinary 5-HIAA and VMA, investigation of neuropeptide hormone secretion as clinically indicated, fasting gut hormone profile including chromogranin A and B.

Repeat CT scan and 24-hour urinary 5-HIAA and serum chromogranin A every 3-12 months depending on rate of disease growth.

Repeat CT scan every 12 weeks while receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy

## 9.0 GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMOURS

---

### 9.1 Adjuvant Therapy

---

Imatinib 400mg od is recommended as an option as adjuvant treatment for up to 3 years for adults who are at high risk of relapse after surgery for KIT (CD117) -positive gastrointestinal stromal tumours, as defined by the Miettinen 2006 criteria (based on tumour size, location and mitotic rate).

### 9.2 First Line Metastatic Therapy

---

Patients presenting with advanced inoperable disease should have tumour specimens sent to the Royal Marsden Hospital for mutational analysis, wild-type c-kit and PDGFRFA should be referred for NTRK fusion analysis.

Imatinib 400mg daily is currently considered standard therapy for all patients. However, for patients with exon 9 c-kit mutations or wild type, there is emerging evidence for a benefit from higher initial Imatinib doses e.g. 600-800mg daily.

#### Monitoring for patients receiving imatinib

The occurrence of toxicity following institution of imatinib is unpredictable. The following schedule of assessments should be undertaken, with clinical assessment, FBC, U+E and LFT performed at each of 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks then 3 monthly thereafter.

Tumour assessment should be performed with CT T/A/P every 12 weeks during imatinib therapy (May be extended to every 24 weeks in prolonged stable disease)

### 9.3 Second Line Metastatic Therapy

---

Sunitinib 37.5 mg daily continuously.

### 9.4 Third Line Metastatic Therapy

---

Regorafenib should be considered for patients' PS 0-1 who have disease progression or intolerance to imatinib and disease progression on sunitinib.

## 10.0 GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG-SPECIFIC TOXICITY

---

### 10.1 DPD Testing

---

Fluoropyrimidines are rapidly degraded by dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD). Therefore, DPD deficiency can lead to severe toxicity or death following treatment with, for example, 5-FU or capecitabine. Homozygotes to DPD are rare (but likely to have severe toxicity or die). However, there are 3-5% of patient who are heterozygotes and are likely to develop toxicity; the clinician may reduce the fluoropyrimidine starting dose in this cohort.

All patients, prior to commencing treatment with a fluoropyrimidine based therapy (5-fluorouracil, capecitabine or tegafur) should be screened for four DPYD gene variants which have been associated with fluoropyrimidine-associated toxicity.

Patients only require this genomic test to be carried out once, at the start of their first fluoropyrimidine treatment, as the results remain applicable to subsequent fluoropyrimidine cycles and future treatment regimens containing a fluoropyrimidine. Within the clinical pathway, the genomic test should be ordered for eligible patients at the point of consent for fluoropyrimidine chemotherapy or earlier if appropriate. Clinicians should follow the UK Chemotherapy Board guidance on dosing adjustments for fluoropyrimidine therapy following detection of a DPYD variant which is available on the KMCC website <http://www.kmcc.nhs.uk/medicines-and-prescribing-incorporating-sact-pathways/network-chemotherapy-prescription-proformas-protocols-nhs-staff-use/>

### 10.2 Uridine Triacetate

---

Uridine triacetate (Vistoguard) is an antidote for management of early-onset severe or life-threatening toxicity, including diarrhoea, within 96 hours following 5FU or capecitabine administration. It is not licensed in the UK, but is available on an unlicensed basis via a 24/7 emergency ordering service, via tel. 0207 8872235.

The policy statement (link below) from NHSE contains information on inclusion / exclusion criteria and also dosing information.

[https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/1929\\_Policy\\_Statement\\_Final\\_v2.pdf](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/1929_Policy_Statement_Final_v2.pdf)

## 11.0 APPENDIX A: CLINICAL TRIALS

---

Refer to the local research team who will provide on request an orientation handbook, list of current trials and associated trial protocols and summaries.

### Contact numbers

<b>MTW – Clinical Trials Office</b>	01622 225 033
<b>Darent Valley Hospital – Clinical Trials Office</b>	01322 428 100 ext. 4810
<b>Medway Hospital – Clinical Trials Office</b>	01634 825 094
<b>East Kent Hospitals – Clinical Trials Office:</b>	
Solid Tumours (excluding Gynae)	01227 866 393
Gynae Clinical Trials	01843 234 343
Haematology Clinical Trials	01227 864 129

## 12.0 APPENDIX B: KMCC GUIDELINES ON MANAGING CARDIAC TOXICITY FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING TRASTUZUMAB

---

- The same monitoring modality should be used throughout the course of treatment and, where possible, this should also include the same operator, machine, and calculation algorithm. Each institution should establish a normal range for the methods used. On the basis that an echocardiogram exposes the patient to less radiation and is usually less expensive than a MUGA scan, the NOG recommend this as the method used to assess cardiac function. ECHOs are reported as a range not an absolute figure, but it is generally accepted that the lower limit of normal (LLN) for cardiac function when measured by an ECHO is 55%.
- Patients developing signs and symptoms of heart failure should have their trastuzumab treatment interrupted, have ACE inhibitor therapy initiated by the oncologist and be referred to a cardiologist. Investigation and treatment is recommended in accordance with present guidelines (NICE, 2003; Bonow et al 2005; Swedberg et al 2005).
- It is the prescriber's responsibility to check that the ECHO/MUGA is satisfactory before continuing treatment.
  - An ECHO/ MUGA should be carried out every 6 months

**NB When an ECHO is used to measure cardiac function, LLN can be assumed to be 55%. For MUGA scans, the LLN for the institution should be used.**

## 13.0 PERSONNEL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

A comprehensive, up to date list of MDM contact details can be found on the KMCC website via the following link: <http://www.KMCC.nhs.uk>

## 14.0 GLOSSARY

Acronyms in common usage throughout KMCC documentation

BNF	British National Formulary
BOPA	British Oncology Pharmacist Association
CNB	Cancer Network Board
COSHH	Control of substances hazardous to health regulations.
CYP	Children & Young People (in relation to the IOG)
DCCAG	Diagnostic Cross Cutting Advisory Group
DOG	Disease Orientated Group (NSSG/TSSG/TWG)
DVH	Darent Valley Hospital
DGT	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
EK	East Kent
EKHUFT	East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust
EPS	Electronic Prescribing System
FP10(HNC)	Prescriptions issued by hospital doctors for dispensing in the community
GP	General Practitioner
HoP	High Level Operational Policy
IOSC	Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer
IV	Intravenous
K&C	Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, (EKHUFT)
KMCC	Kent & Medway Cancer Collaborative
KMCRN	Kent & Medway Cancer Research Network
KOMS	Kent Oncology Management System
LSESN	London & South East Sarcoma Network
MFT	Medway Foundation Trust
MTW	Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
NHS	National Health Service
NMP	Non-medical prescriber
NPSA	National Patient Safety agency
NOG	Non-Surgical Oncology Group <i>(Permanent oncologist sub group of the DOGs with a specific responsibility for chemo/rad pathways and advice to the DOG, Network and GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS on new drugs)</i>
PoC	Pathway of Care <i>(Network agreed disease site specific clinical guidelines)</i>
QEQM	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate (EKHUFT)
QoL	Quality of life
QSI	Quality service information system
QST	Quality Surveillance Team
RAT	Research and Trial Group <i>(Permanent sub-group of the DOGs with a specific responsibility for taking forward the clinical trials agenda)</i>
RMH	Royal Marsden Hospital
RNOH	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital

SACT	Systemic Anti-Cancer therapy
SACT regimen	Systemic Anti-cancer prescription on the electronic prescribing system
SACT protocol	Systemic Anti-cancer protocol on KMCC website
TTO	Treatment to take home
QVH	Queen Victoria Foundation Trust Hospital East Grinstead
UCLH	University College Hospital London
WHH	William Harvey Hospital, Ashford (EKHUFT)
WK	West Kent

## 15.0 DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION

<b>Document Title</b>	Oncological Treatment Guidelines for Upper GI Cancer
<b>Principle author</b>	Caroline Waters
<b>Co-author(s)</b>	Upper GI NOG
<b>Current version number</b>	22
<b>Current status</b>	Draft
<b>Agreed as “Fit for Publication” by</b>	Mathilda Cominos NOG chair
<b>Expected review date by</b>	July 2022

<b>Enquiries:</b>	
[[1] DOG, NOG, CCG Chair [2] DOG, NOG, CCG Vice Chair	Mathilda Cominos – UGI NOG Chair Tim Sevitt Riyaz Shah

<b>Revision History</b>			
Date of revision	New Version Number	Nature of Revision	Confirmation of Accuracy by
December 2008 – February 2009	0.1 – 0.4	Guidelines agreed, document transposed into network guidance template, appendix A clinical trials added.	Upper GI NOG
February 2009	1	Agreed	Upper GI NOG
March 2009	1.1-1.3	Changes to sections 9 and 10	Upper GI NOG
August 2009	3.1	Changes from Dr J Waters incorporated	Sarah Wade
August 2009	4	Agreed	Upper GI NOG
February 2010	4.1	Changes agreed at the upper GI NOG	Upper GI NOG
March 2010	5	Changes agreed at the upper GI NOG	Upper GI NOG
November 2010	5.1 – 5.2	Changes agreed at upper GI NOG (sections 7.2, 2.4, appendix B)	Upper GI NOG
December 2010	6	Published	Upper GI NOG
December 2010	6.1	Section 1.1 –neo-adjuvant treatment for oesophageal cancer divided into two sections: chemotherapy and chemoradiotherapy	Upper GI NOG
February 2011	6.2	Changes agreed at the Upper GI NOG	Upper GI NOG
May 2011	7	Published	Upper GI NOG



September 2011	7.1-7.2	Changes following review at Upper GI NOG	Upper GI NOG
October 2011	8	Published	Upper GI NOG
March 2012	8.1		Upper GI NOG
March 2012	9	Published	Upper GI NOG
November 2012 – January 2013	9.1-9.2	Changes following review at the Upper GI NOG	
February 2013	10	Published	Upper GI NOG
May 2013	10.1	Draft – updated in line with NCDF & NHSE lists	
June 2013	11	Final	Upper GI NOG
November 2013- March 2014	11.1	Changes to palliative treatment options for pancreatic adenocarcinoma (section 4.3) Addition of regorafenib (section 9.4) for third line metastatic therapy for GIST	Upper GI NOG
April - May 2014	v12 – 12.2	This version was not published. Changes agreed at the UGI NOG	
June 2014	v13	Published	Upper GI NOG
October 2014	V13.1	Addition of Capecitabine & Temozolomide as a treatment option for PNET (section 8.2)	Upper GI NOG
November 2014	V14	Published	Upper GI NOG
April 2015	V14.1	Changes agreed at the UGI NOG. Revised in line with NCDF list	
September 2015	V15	Published	Tim Sevitt
November 2015	V15.1	Updated in line with published NCDF List	
January 2016	V16	Published	Tim Sevitt
March 2017 onwards	V16.1 -16.2	Addition of Irinotecan / cape to section 2.6 Addition of Gem/ Cape to section 4.1 Addition of Adjuvant chemoradiation after adjuvant chemo – section 4.2 DPD testing – statement added to section 10.1 – re: management of drug specific toxicity. Updated in line with NCDF List for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- albumin paclitaxel and gemcitabine in untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer - section 4.4</li> <li>- Sorafenib in HCC section 6.2</li> </ul> Update to the criteria for use of Everolimus in NETS – section 8.2	
September 2017	V17	Published.	Upper GI NOG
September 2017	V17.1	Addition of FLOT regimen (section 3.1) Addition of adjuvant capecitabine for biliary tract cancer (section 5.1)	
October 2017	V18	Published	Tim Sevitt
March-Oct 2018	V18.1-V18.5	Section 2.5 Indications updated Section 2.3 Addition of Carboplatin+Paclitaxel Section 3.4 Indications updated Section 3.5 Title updated and treatment Sections 4.4/6.2/8.2/9.4 funding information updated Section 8.2 Addition of Lutetium 177 octreotate Section 14.0 web link updated	Following NOGs 13/03/2018 and 11/09/2018
NOV 2018	V19	Published	Tim Sevitt

March 2019	V19.1-19.2	Section 6.0 Addition of Lenvatinib and Regorafenib Section 4.1 Addition of adjuvant folfirinox for adjuvant pancreas Further amendment 10/09/19 change of name of protocol Section 4.1 Adjuvant modified folfirinox Section 4.4 Palliative modified folfirinox	Upper GI NOG march/sept 2019
September 2020	V20	Published	Mathilda Cominos
June 2021	V20.1-20.6	Overhaul of entire document, changes throughout each section	Changes made at UGI NOG 08.06.21
July 2021	V20.6.1-20.8.1	Updated following virtual review Addition of section 2.2.3 Addition of trastuzumab to section 2.5.1 Reformatted by R.Patel	M. Archer
July	V21	Published	M.Cominos and J.Waters
July-Nov	V21.4-21.10.2	Amended during and following UGI NOG July 2022 and Nov 2022 Sections: 1.2 2.1 2.1.2 2.1.3 2.2 2.2.2 2.5 2.5.1 3.1 3.2 3.4 3.4.1 3.4.2 6.2 9.3 10.1	NOG / C Waters
March	V22	Published	M.Cominos UGI NOG