BOPA Position Statement

BOPA supports the withdrawal of histamine 2 (H_2) antagonists from paclitaxel pre-medication regimens following publication of research which demonstrates their lack of effect

This position statement replaces the previous publication - BOPA guidance on use of H_2 antagonists for hypersensitivity published 5/6/2020.

Following publication of the results of a national research effort coordinated through the BOPA membership, the executive committee is pleased to announce formal support regarding the withdrawal of H_2 antagonist components from paclitaxel pre-medication regimens used in clinical practice (1). We would like to thank the pharmacy teams in the 14 participating treatment centres for their support in generating the data required for this study and to members of the BOPA community who helped to produce the final publication.

The findings of this research study are consistent with other recent publications into the effects of H_2 antagonists in reducing the incidence and severity of hypersensitivity reactions associated with paclitaxel treatment, and confirm that H_2 antagonists confer no additional benefit compared to a combination of an H_1 antagonist and corticosteroid (2).

BOPA therefore endorses UK treatment centres to withdraw H_2 antagonists as a component of pre-medication regimens administered before paclitaxel containing regimens.

Healthcare providers should follow appropriate local/organisational governance procedures prior to implementation.

Following publication of this study, the BOPA executive committee has written to the chair of the MHRA asking for a review of the content of paclitaxel product licenses and requested consideration regarding removal of the requirement to include an H_2 component within pre-medication regimens.

References

(1) Foreman E, Polwart C, Walker A, Chambers P. Histamine-2 (H_2) antagonists can be safely removed from standard paclitaxel premedication regimens. British Journal of Pharmacology. 2022, May: 88(9);4191-4198. DOI: 10.1111/bcp.15363

(2) Cox JM, Van Doorn L, Malmberg R, *et al*. The added value of H_2 antagonists in premedication regimens during paclitaxel treatment. British Journal of Cancer. 2021, March: 124(10); 1647-1652. DOI: 10.1038/s41416-021-01313-0

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Title		H_2 antagonist withdrawal in pre-medication regimens before paclitaxel treatments	
Authors/Editors		Andrew Walker	
Owner		BOPA Exec Committee	
Endorsed by the BOPA exec committee		October 2022	
Change History			
Version	**Date**	**Lead Author/Editor**	**Summary of Changes**
1.0	June 2020	Fleur Harvey	1st version
2.0	September 2022	Andrew Walker	Updated to reflect newly published evidence confirming withdrawal of H_2 antagonists

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