

including taxanes or anthracyclines is not considered appropriate, or when taxanes or anthracyclines have been used as part of adjuvant treatment in the previous 12 months.

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta263](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta263)

- ▶ **Bevacizumab in combination with oxaliplatin and either fluorouracil plus folinic acid or capecitabine for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer (December 2010) NICE TA212** Bevacizumab in combination with oxaliplatin and either fluorouracil plus folinic acid or capecitabine is **not** recommended for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta212](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta212)

- ▶ **Capecitabine for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer (July 2010) NICE TA191** Capecitabine in combination with a platinum-based regimen is recommended for the first-line treatment of inoperable advanced gastric cancer. [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta191](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta191)
- ▶ **Capecitabine and tegafur with uracil for metastatic colorectal cancer (May 2003) NICE TA61** Capecitabine or tegafur with uracil [now discontinued] (in combination with folinic acid) is an option for the first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer. [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta61](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta61)
- ▶ **Capecitabine and oxaliplatin in the adjuvant treatment of stage III (Dukes' C) colon cancer (April 2006) NICE TA100** Capecitabine alone or oxaliplatin combined with fluorouracil and folinic acid are options for adjuvant treatment following surgery for stage III (Dukes' C) colon cancer. [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta100](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta100)

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.

#### Tablet

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 21

##### ▶ Capecitabine (Non-proprietary)

**Capecitabine 150 mg** Capecitabine 150mg tablets | 60 tablet [PoM](#)  
£38.90 DT = £30.00 | 60 tablet [PoM](#) £38.02 DT = £30.00 (Hospital only)

**Capecitabine 300 mg** Capecitabine 300mg tablets | 60 tablet [PoM](#)  
£76.04 DT = £76.04 (Hospital only)

**Capecitabine 500 mg** Capecitabine 500mg tablets | 120 tablet [PoM](#) £225.72 DT = £225.72 | 120 tablet [PoM](#) £240.00-£265.55 DT = £225.72 (Hospital only)

##### ▶ Xeloda (Roche Products Ltd)

**Capecitabine 150 mg** Xeloda 150mg tablets | 60 tablet [PoM](#)  
£40.02 DT = £30.00

**Capecitabine 500 mg** Xeloda 500mg tablets | 120 tablet [PoM](#)  
£265.55 DT = £225.72

## Cladribine

20-Feb-2018

- **DRUG ACTION** Cladribine is a nucleoside analogue that is cytotoxic particularly to lymphocytes and monocytes, inhibiting both DNA synthesis and repair. Its effect on B- and T-lymphocytes is thought to interrupt the cascade of immune events central to multiple sclerosis.

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

##### Hairy cell leukaemia (specialist use only)

- ▶ BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION, OR BY INTRAVENOUS INFUSION
- ▶ Adult: (consult product literature or local protocols)

##### B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (specialist use only)

- ▶ BY INTRAVENOUS INFUSION
- ▶ Adult: (consult product literature or local protocols)

#### Highly active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (specialist use only)

- ▶ BY MOUTH
- ▶ Adult: (consult product literature or local protocols)

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

MHRA/CHM ADVICE: CLADRIBINE FOR LEUKAEMIA: REPORTS OF PROGRESSIVE MULTIFOCAL ENCEPHALOPATHY (PML); STOP TREATMENT IF PML SUSPECTED (DECEMBER 2017)

The MHRA is aware of 3 confirmed cases of progressive multifocal encephalopathy (PML) that developed 6 months to several years after cladribine treatment for haematological conditions. An association between cladribine and prolonged lymphopenia has been reported.

PML should be considered in the differential diagnosis for patients with new or worsening neurological signs or symptoms. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of new neurological dysfunction, and advised to seek urgent medical attention if they experience symptoms—stop treatment immediately if PML is suspected and ensure specialist investigation is received.

#### ● CONTRA-INDICATIONS

- ▶ With oral use Active chronic hepatitis · active chronic tuberculosis · active malignancy · HIV infection · immunocompromised patients

#### ● CAUTIONS

**GENERAL CAUTIONS** Acute infection · use irradiated blood only (haematology consultation advised)

##### SPECIFIC CAUTIONS

- ▶ With intravenous use or subcutaneous use High tumour burden—consult product literature · symptomatic or severe bone marrow depression
- ▶ With oral use No prior exposure to varicella zoster virus · prior malignancy (consider if potential benefit outweighs risk)

##### CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION

- ▶ Immunosuppressive effect of cladribine
- ▶ With intravenous use or subcutaneous use Cladribine has potent and prolonged myelosuppressive and immunosuppressive effects. Patients treated with cladribine are more prone to serious bacterial, opportunistic fungal, and viral infections, and prophylactic therapy should be considered in those at risk. Acute infections should be treated before initiating cladribine. To prevent potentially fatal transfusion-related graft-versus-host reaction, only irradiated blood products should be administered. Prescribers should consult specialist literature when using highly immunosuppressive drugs.

- ▶ Varicella zoster virus
- ▶ With oral use Manufacturer advises vaccination prior to initiation of therapy in patients who have no history of exposure to varicella zoster virus; delay treatment for 4–6 weeks after vaccination.

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: cladribine

#### ● SIDE-EFFECTS

##### GENERAL SIDE-EFFECTS

- ▶ **Common or very common** Increased risk of infection

##### SPECIFIC SIDE-EFFECTS

- ▶ **Common or very common**

- ▶ With intravenous use Anaemia · anxiety · appetite decreased · arrhythmias · arthritis · asthenia · chest pain · chills · confusion · conjunctivitis · constipation · cough · diarrhoea · dizziness · dyspnoea · febrile neutropenia · fever · flatulence · gastrointestinal discomfort · haemolytic anaemia · headache · hyperhidrosis · hypersensitivity · insomnia · joint disorders · malaise · muscle weakness · myalgia · myocardial ischaemia · nausea · neoplasms ·