ASCO Guidelines

Antiemetics: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Update

Authors: Ethan Basch¹, Ann Alexis Prestrud², Paul J. Hesketh³, Mark G. Kris⁴, Petra C. Feyer⁵, Mark R. Somerfield², Maurice Chesney⁶, Rebecca Anne Clark-Snow⁷, Anne Marie Flaherty⁴, Barbara Freundlich⁸, Gary Morrow⁹, Kamakshi V. Rao¹⁰, Rowena N Schwartz¹¹, Gary H. Lyman¹²

Author Institutions: ¹ Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY; ² American Society of Clinical Oncology, Alexandria, VA; ³ Lahey Clinic Medical Center; Burlington, MA; ⁴ Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY; ⁵ Vivantes Clinic of Radiooncology and Nuclear Medicine, Berlin, Germany; ⁶ Patient Representative, Saunderstown, RI; ⁷ Lawrence Memorial Hospital Oncology Center, Overland Park, KS; ⁸ Patient Representative, New York, NY; ⁹ University of Rochester Cancer Center, Rochester, NY; ¹⁰ University of North Carolina Hospital, Chapel Hill, NC; ¹¹ The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Duke University, Durham, NC ¹²

Corresponding Author:

American Society of Clinical Oncology 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800 Alexandria, VA 22314 (571) 483 – 1615 guidelines@asco.org

Running Head: Antiemetics: ASCO Guideline Update

Board Approved: April 13, 2011

Reprint Requests: 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314; guidelines@asco.org

ABSTRACT

Objective: To update the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) guideline for antiemetics in oncology.

Methods: A systematic review of the medical literature was completed to inform this update. MEDLINE, the Cochrane Collaboration Library, meeting materials from ASCO and the Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer were all searched. Primary outcomes of interest were complete response and rates of any vomiting or nausea.

Results: Thirty-seven trials met prespecified inclusion and exclusion criteria for this systematic review. Two systematic reviews from the Cochrane Collaboration were identified; one surveyed the pediatric literature. The other compared the relative efficacy of the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists.

Recommendations: Combined anthracycline and cyclophosphamide regimens were re-classified as highly emetic. Patients who receive this combination or any highly emetic agents should receive a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist, dexamethasone, and an NK₁ receptor antagonist. A large trial validated the equivalency of fosaprepitant, a single-day intravenous formulation, with aprepitant; either therapy is appropriate. Preferential use of palonosetron is recommended for moderate emetic risk regimens, combined with dexamethasone. For low risk agents, patients can be offered dexamethasone before the first dose of chemotherapy. Patients undergoing high emetic risk radiation therapy should receive a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist before each fraction and for 24 hours following treatment and may receive a five-day course of dexamethasone during fractions 1-5.

The Update Committee noted the importance of continued symptom monitoring throughout therapy.

Clinicians underestimate the incidence of nausea, which is not as well controlled as emesis.

BOTTOM LINE BOX

Intervention

• Antiemetics for patients receiving cancer therapy

Target Audience

• Medical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, Oncology Nurses

Key Recommendations

- Patients who receive highly emetic chemotherapy regimens should receive the three drug combination of an NK1 antagonist, 5-HT3 receptor antagonist, and dexamethasone.
- The preferred 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist for patients who receive moderate emetic chemotherapy regimens is palonosetron; antiemetic treatment includes that agent combined with a corticosteroid.

Methods

• A systematic review of the literature published since the last update of the guideline.

Additional Information

An Executive Summary of this guideline was published in Journal of Clinical Oncology

Data supplements, including evidence tables, and clinical tools and resources can be found at www.asco.org/guidelines/antiemetics.

Editor's note

This is the complete American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Clinical Practice Guideline Update and provides the recommendations with comprehensive discussions of the relevant literature for each recommendation. The Executive Summary of the guideline, data supplements with evidence tables as well as other tables and figures are available at www.asco.org/guidelines/antiemetics.

INTRODUCTION

The first American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) guideline for the use of antiemetics was published in 1999. The first update to the guideline was published in 2006. This document represents the second update which incorporates new clinical information.

This guideline provides clinicians with recommendations to prevent vomiting and nausea among patients undergoing cancer chemotherapy (CINV: chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting) and/or radiation therapy (RINV: radiation-induced nausea and vomiting) based on evidence from clinical trials.

Guideline Type

This is a full guideline update. A systematic review of the literature found substantial new information related to a variety of clinical questions. Therefore, the guideline was updated in its entirety and all clinical questions were revisited. An executive summary of this update was published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

METHODS

Panel Composition

An Update Committee (Appendix 1) was formed to review data published since 2006 and develop updated recommendations.

Consensus Development Based on Evidence

The 2011 Update Committee met once at ASCO Headquarters Office and once via teleconference, to consider available evidence and develop recommendations. Additional work on the guideline was completed electronically. Members of the steering committee and ASCO staff prepared a draft guideline document that was disseminated for review by the entire Update Committee. As per standard ASCO practice, the guideline was submitted to the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* for peer review. Feedback from external reviewers with expertise in antiemetics was also solicited. The Update Committee, ASCO's Clinical Practice Guideline Committee (CPGC), and the ASCO Board of Directors reviewed and approved the final document.

Guideline Policy

This practice guideline is not intended to substitute for the independent professional judgment of the treating physician. Practice guidelines do not account for individual variation among patients and

may not reflect the most recent evidence. This guideline does not recommend any particular product or course of medical treatment. Use of the practice guideline is voluntary. The executive summary and additional information and practice tools are available at www.asco.org/guidelines/antiemetics.

UPDATE METHODOLOGY

Clinical Questions

The last update of the ASCO antiemetics guideline was published in 2006. The goal of the current update was to review new evidence describing prevention of nausea and vomiting among patients undergoing cancer therapy, including antineoplastic drugs and radiation therapy, and to develop an updated set of recommendations (Table 1). This update reviewed 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist equivalency, considering use of these agents either with or without an NK₁ receptor antagonist. Other key questions included the use of NK₁ receptor antagonists in the moderately emetogenic and high-dose chemotherapy setting, the use of alternative drug formulations, and antiemetic therapy for children; the complete list of questions included in this guideline update is in Table 1.

Literature Review and Analysis

Literature Search Strategy. The initial search for this systematic review and guideline identified relevant articles from an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)-funded Evidence-Based Practice Center report completed at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).³ The dates of the OHSU literature search of MEDLINE were 1966 through October 2008. That evidence review was limited to trials including the newer antiemetics: aprepitant (the NK₁ receptor antagonist) and the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists. Initially, two literature searches were completed by ASCO staff in MEDLINE. The first included all relevant search terms (Appendix A2), overlapping minimally with the OHSU search, from September 2008 through December 2009. A second search, excluding the OHSU intervention search terms, overlapped briefly with the search for the 2006 ASCO update; ranging from February 2004 to February 2010. This second search was designed to identify new adjunctive therapy. The Cochrane Collaboration Library electronic database was also searched, using the terms emesis, vomiting, and nausea. Data presented at the ASCO and the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) annual meetings (cite years) was also searched systematically using the terms "vomiting", "emesis", and "nausea", but only presentations or posters were included. Data presented only in abstract form was excluded. Yield from hand-searching the bibliographies of relevant articles and materials provided by Update Committee members were also assessed for inclusion. Another search of MEDLINE was completed, including all intervention terms, following preparation of the preliminary draft to determine if any new trials were published. Meeting materials were not searched again.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria. Trial reports of randomized studies or other systematic reviews, from scholarly articles or meetings, eligible for inclusion met the following criteria: (1) the intervention was for the treatment of nausea or vomiting secondary to cancer therapy, (2) nausea and/or vomiting outcomes were reported, (3) patients were followed for a minimum of five days (120 hours) following

initial chemotherapy administration, and (4) each trial arm included a minimum of 25 randomized patients.

Data Extraction. Eligible reports were identified in a first round of review by an ASCO staff member; these were later discussed with the Co-Chairs to reach a final decision. Full text copies were obtained for assessment of inclusion/exclusion criteria. Articles that provisionally met inclusion criteria underwent data extraction by ASCO staff for patient characteristics, study design and quality, interventions, outcomes, and adverse events. Evidence summary tables (Data Supplement, available online only at www.asco.org/guidelines/antiemetics) were reviewed for accuracy and completeness by an ASCO staff member who was not involved in their original preparation.

Study Quality and Limitations of the Literature. Trial characteristics extracted to rate quality included study design, definition of terms, and outcomes. One limitation of the trials was that a number of studies included patients who received either moderately or highly emetogenic chemotherapy without reporting subset analyses for patient groups according to emetic risk. Findings from such combined trials are challenging to interpret in the context of an evidence-based guideline for a specific risk class.

Guideline and Conflict of Interest

The Update Committee was assembled in accordance with ASCO's Conflict of Interest Management Procedures for Clinical Practice Guidelines ("Procedures," summarized at http://www.asco.org/guidelinescoi). Members of the Update Committee completed ASCO's disclosure form, which requires disclosure of financial and other interests that are relevant to the subject matter of the guideline, including relationships with commercial entities that are reasonably likely to experience direct regulatory or commercial impact as the result of promulgation of the guideline. Categories for disclosure include employment relationships, consulting arrangements, stock ownership, honoraria, research funding, and expert testimony. In accordance with the Procedures, the majority of the members of the Update Committee did not disclose any such relationships.

Revision Dates

At intervals, the Steering Committee will determine the need for update to the guideline based on an examination of current literature. If necessary, the Update Committee will be reconvened to discuss potential changes. When appropriate, the Update Committee will recommend updating the guidelines to the CPGC and the ASCO Board for review and approval.

RESULTS

The literature search yielded a total of 271 unique citations from MEDLINE and 48 from the MASCC and ASCO meetings; the QUOROM Diagram is included in the Appendix (Appendix A3). Additional materials evaluated were from the personal libraries of Update Committee members. Of

those, 36 reports met inclusion criteria (previously described) and were selected for full-text review. Eleven (30.6%) of those included were either posters or presentations from meetings.

Nine studies evaluated antiemetic regimens according to emetic risk, six of which applied to highly emetic chemotherapy⁴⁻⁸ and the remainder to moderately emetic⁹⁻¹¹ Five trials evaluated the comparative efficacy of 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists including a systematic review from the Cochrane Collaboration; ¹²⁻¹⁶ five described findings from dosing studies specifically for palonosetron. ¹⁷⁻²¹ Two trials described new delivery methods of two previously approved therapies. ^{22,23} A number of studies assessed special populations. Three trials detailed results in patients undergoing myeloablative therapy prior to transplant, ²⁴⁻²⁶ two described efforts in patients receiving multi-day chemotherapy regimens, ^{27,28} and three trials evaluated antiemetic therapies in pediatric patients undergoing cancer therapy. ²⁹⁻³¹

Three studies examined complementary therapies in patients receiving cancer treatment.³²⁻³⁴ Two studies that specifically considered therapy for delayed nausea and vomiting were identified.^{35,36} Among the studies reviewed, only one trial evaluating therapy for patients undergoing radiation was identified.³⁷

GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (CINV)

Highly and moderately emetogenic antineoplastic agents have the potential to induce both acute (< 24 hours) and delayed (> 24 hours) nausea and vomiting following chemotherapy. The guideline recommendations include prophylaxis for both types of nausea and vomiting where appropriate.

This guideline update includes the most recent recommendations (Table 1) developed by the Update Committee. A table with intravenous agents organized by emetic risk (Table 2) is included. The intravenous risk stratification schema was originally published in 1997³⁸ and was updated at the MASCC/ESMO 2009 consensus conference.³⁹ The modified stratification from MASCC was adopted by ASCO for this guideline update.⁴⁰ Dosing schedules are also detailed herein (Table 3).

Clinical Question 1. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting from highly emetogenic antineoplastic agents?

Recommendation 1. The three-drug combination of an NK_1 receptor antagonist (days 1-3 for aprepitant; day 1 only for fosaprepitant), a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist (day 1 only), and dexamethasone (days 1-3 or 1-4) is recommended for patients receiving highly emetogenic chemotherapy. This recommendation is unchanged since the 2006 update, but re-worded for clarification.

The Update Committee also recommended reclassification of the combined anthracycline and cyclophosphamide (AC) regimen as highly emetogenic.

Literature update and analysis 1. Five new trials were identified.⁴⁻⁸ The Hoshi study,⁶ presented at the 2007 MASCC meeting, provided additional data (Data Supplement) to support the 2006 recommendation to include aprepitant for patients undergoing high-risk chemotherapy. In the Yeo 2009 trial,⁸ rates of both total control and complete protection were marginally higher among patients

who received ondansetron and dexamethasone, compared to those who also received aprepitant (Data Supplement). The inconsistency of the main outcome measures in the Yeo trial compared to data that support use of aprepitant^{5,6} are likely related to the small sample size.

An equivalency study, including over 2200 patients compared fosaprepitant, an intravenous formulation of aprepitant, with oral aprepitant. 4,41 Findings demonstrate equivalence between the two agents for complete response and both emesis and nausea control. Fosaprepitant is dosed intravenously only once before chemotherapy and is endorsed by the Committee as an acceptable NK₁ receptor antagonist.

The Herrington pilot study compared one (125 mg) oral dose with the standard three days of oral aprepitant.⁵ No differences in rates of complete response and emetic episodes for the overall study period were reported. Further studies to validate the non-inferiority of single day oral aprepitant dosing are necessary to establish the equivalence of the two oral dosing regimens.

A pilot study, presented at the 2010 MASCC meeting, compared olanzapine to aprepitant both in combination with palonosetron and dexamethasone. Patients randomized to olanzapine experienced similar complete response rates as those who received aprepitant, (Data Supplement). The olanzapine arm was superior for nausea control during the overall study period (p< 0.01). Additional trials are necessary to define the role of olanzapine in this setting.

The combination of an anthracycline and cyclophosphamide was re-classified based on the high emetic potential of the agents when used together. Data from placebo-controlled studies indicate that this combination causes vomiting in 85% of patients not receiving antiemetic prophylaxis.³⁸ This borders on the 90% cutoff originally defined for highly emetogenic agents in the 1997 article published by Hesketh *et al.*³⁸ The most recent antiemetic guideline from MASCC recommends treating patients who receive this chemotherapy regimen with the same agents used for prophylaxis with highly emetogenic antineoplastic therapies.⁴⁰ The 2011 ASCO Update Committee concurs.

Clinical Question 2. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting from moderately emetogenic antineoplastic agents?

Recommendation 2. The two-drug combination of palonosetron (day 1 only) and dexamethasone (days 1-3) is recommended for patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. If palonosetron is not available, clinicians may substitute a first generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist, preferably granisetron or ondansetron.

Limited evidence also supports adding aprepitant to the combination. Should clinicians opt to add aprepitant in patients receiving moderate-risk chemotherapy, any one of the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists is appropriate.

Literature update and analysis 2a. 5-HT₃ Receptor Antagonist Equivalency. The Update Committee evaluated the therapeutic equivalence of the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists (ondansetron, granisetron, dolasetron, tropisetron, and palonosetron). Of particular interest was palonosetron, a second generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist with a longer half-life.

A review of 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists used to prevent chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting from the Cochrane Collaboration was identified. Most trials (n=16 trials, 7808 patients) compared ondansetron and granisetron. Few including dolasetron and tropisetron were identified and only one study with palonosetron was included, which is also described in this section. Findings from the Cochrane systematic review suggest equivalency between ondansetron and granisetron. This is supported by a meta-analysis of nine trials completed by the review authors (Data Supplement). Results indicate similar efficacy with respect to both nausea and vomiting outcomes during the acute and delayed treatment phases, as well as a combined nausea and vomiting endpoint. The adverse event profiles of these two first generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists were generally similar.

Another meta-analysis from Jordan *et al.* assessed only first generation 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists.⁴³ This analysis supported equivalency of granisetron and ondansetron, considering data from 27 published trials. Additional evaluation from the paper by Jordan *et al.* indicates that granisetron is superior to tropisetron.

Three studies compared palonosetron, with ondansetron¹² and granisetron.^{13,14} Findings from the two larger studies^{9,13} suggested that palonosetron provides superior protection against both nausea and vomiting particularly during the period from 24-120 hours after chemotherapy (Data Supplement). Complete response rates were 48% and 57% (both 0.75 mg of palonosetron), compared to 39% and 45%, from Aapro and Saito respectively.

Findings from the third study, however, yielded a non-significant difference in complete response during the first 24 hours after chemotherapy. 14 Complete response rates during the delayed phase were 83% versus 72% (p< 0.07), comparing palonosetron to granisetron. Each arm included 104 patients in this non-inferiority trial not designed to assess between group differences.

These studies were conducted in a combined emetic risk population, but not a non-AC moderately emetogenic population, comparing palonosetron with a first generation 5-HT_3 receptor antagonist in which dexamethasone has also been included. The preference for palonosetron is an extrapolation from the Saito data: when an NK_1 receptor antagonist is not employed in the setting of cisplatin and AC chemotherapy, the combination of palonosetron and dexamethasone was superior to granisetron and dexamethasone. By inference, with non-AC moderately emetogenic chemotherapy, palonosetron and dexamethasone is also likely to be superior to a first generation 5-HT_3 receptor antagonist and dexamethasone.

A study from the *Japanese Journal of Oncology* compared ramosetron and granisetron, both combined with dexamethasone, in patients receiving either moderate or highly emetic chemotherapy. ¹⁶ Findings indicate similar rates of complete response during the first 24 hours after chemotherapy, meeting the pre-specified non-inferiority margin of 15%. Importantly, the efficacy of ramosetron during the seven days after chemotherapy has yet to be published.

Literature update and analysis 2b. NK₁ Receptor Antagonist for moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. One trial evaluated the benefits of adding aprepitant to antiemetic regimens for patients undergoing moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. ¹¹ Subgroup analyses were completed according to type of

chemotherapy received: AC or non-AC regimens (Data Supplement). Improved CINV protection with aprepitant was noted.

An advantage of using aprepitant with moderate risk agents is the shorter duration of dexamethasone treatment required. Patients receive only one dose of dexamethasone on day one,⁴⁴ compared to three days without aprepitant.

Literature update and analysis 2c. Dexamethasone Dosing. The literature search identified two trials^{9,45} both of which evaluated one-day dexamethasone dosing versus three-day in combination with intravenous palonosetron. Findings from both trials suggest similar outcomes between patients who received one versus three days of dexamethasone. Importantly, both trials accrued patients who received combined anthracycline and cyclophosphamide and patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy regimens. Additional trials which validate these findings may warrant a change to the current recommendation.

Clinical Question 3. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting from low emetogenic antineoplastic agents?

Recommendation 3. A single 8 mg dose of dexamethasone before chemotherapy is suggested. No change since 2006.

Literature update and analysis 3. No new evidence was identified.

Clinical Question 4. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting from minimally emetogenic antineoplastic agents?

Recommendation 4. No antiemetic should be administered routinely before or after chemotherapy. No change from the original guideline.

Literature update and analysis 4. No new evidence was identified.

Clinical Question 5. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting from combination chemotherapy?

Recommendation 5. Patients should be administered antiemetics appropriate for the component chemotherapeutic (antineoplastic) agent of greatest emetic risk. No change from the original guideline. Anthracycline-cyclophosphamide combinations are now classified as highly emetogenic. *Literature update and analysis 5.* No new evidence was identified.

Clinical Question 6. What is the role of adjunctive drugs for nausea and vomiting induced by cancer treatments?

Recommendation 6. Lorazepam or diphenhydramine are useful adjuncts to antiemetic drugs, but are not recommended as single agent antiemetics. No change since 2006.

Literature update and analysis 6. No new evidence was identified. The search completed for this guideline update identified one study that evaluated adjunctive therapies for patients undergoing chemotherapy. This trial evaluated the utility of incorporating olanzapine into antiemetic regimens. Tan et al. evaluated the role of olanzapine in combination with azasetron and dexamethasone. Benefits of olanzapine were most noted during the delayed period (Data Supplement). Health-related quality of life data also suggested benefits of olanzapine, particularly with respect to nausea and vomiting control, as well as appetite loss.

Clinical Question 7. What is the role of complementary and alternative medicine therapies to prevent or control nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy?

Recommendation 7. No published randomized controlled trial data which met inclusion criteria are currently available to support a recommendation about such therapies.

Literature update and analysis 7. At the 2009 ASCO Annual Meeting, a phase III trial of ginger was presented.³² No significant differences in the prevalence of vomiting and nausea between patients who received ginger and those who received placebo were reported (Data Supplement).

The Cochrane Collaboration published a systematic review in early 2010 that evaluated the benefits of acupuncture-point stimulation for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting.¹⁵ This effort did not meet prespecified inclusion and exclusion criteria for this systematic review.

A number of different modalities were considered including stimulation with needles, electroacupuncture, manual acupuncture, acupressure, and noninvasive electrostimulation.

Perhaps the most relevant finding from this trial is the apparent protective effect of self-administered acupressure with respect to nausea. This benefit, according to data reviewed in the report, is only apparent on the day of chemotherapy administration and offers no protective effects against emesis. This approach may offer benefits when combined with the appropriate pharmacologic intervention. It may also be a beneficial approach for patients with anticipatory or uncontrolled nausea and vomiting.

Special Populations

Clinical Question 8. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting associated with cancer therapy for pediatric patients?

Recommendation 8. The combination of a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist plus a corticosteroid is suggested before chemotherapy in children receiving chemotherapy of high or moderate emetic risk. Due to variation of pharmacokinetic parameters in children, higher weight-based doses of 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists than those used in adults may be required for antiemetic protection. No change since 2006. Literature update and analysis 8. The Cochrane Collaboration published a systematic review of available therapies to treat and prevent CINV in children.⁴⁶ A total of 28 trials were identified but few trials had similarities in intervention characteristics, so the review was primarily qualitative. The authors reported that the addition of dexamethasone to the newer 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists provides benefits in the

highly emetic setting based on the one pooled analysis completed. Qualitative assessment suggests that the newer 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists are superior to the early agents in this class.

Two trials were also identified during the literature search. One trial assessed the use of aprepitant in this population, ²⁹ and the second evaluated the efficacy and safety of palonosetron in pediatric patients. ³⁰

Clinical Question 9. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting in patients who are undergoing high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell or bone marrow transplant?

Recommendation 9. A 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist combined with dexamethasone is recommended. Aprepitant should be considered, although evidence to support its use is limited.

Literature update and analysis 9. Two new studies were identified, one presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the other at ASCO.^{24,25} The Giralt report detailed superior emetic control with palonosetron (Data Supplement); data suggest that two days of palonosetron therapy will decrease the likelihood of CINV compared to one day of palonosetron or, alternatively, three days of palonosetron. The study presented at ASH compared treatment with aprepitant versus placebo, both dosed on each day of the chemotherapy conditioning regimen. All patients also received ondansetron and dexamethasone daily. Patients in the aprepitant arm experienced markedly improved vomiting control (Data Supplement). The Update Committee believes this trial provides evidence of benefit with an NK₁ antagonist in patients undergoing high-dose chemotherapy before transplant.

Question 10. What is the optimal treatment to prevent nausea and vomiting for patients receiving multi-day chemotherapy?

Recommendation 10. It is suggested that antiemetics appropriate for the emetogenic risk class of the chemotherapy be administered for each day of the chemotherapy and for two days after, if appropriate. No change from the original guideline.

The Update Committee suggests, based on limited data, that patients receiving five-day cisplatin regimens be treated with a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist in combination with dexamethasone and aprepitant.

Literature update and analysis 10. The literature search identified one trial of patients receiving five-day cisplatin for germ cell tumors.²⁸ The study evaluated the utility of incorporating metopimazine with tropisetron. The small trial findings suggested improved nausea and vomiting control with this adjunctive agent (Data Supplement).

A non-inferiority, placebo controlled trial was conducted with the newly approved granisetron transdermal system.²³ This alternative delivery method was evaluated in patients receiving either moderately or highly emetogenic chemotherapy for multiple, consecutive days (Data Supplement). The trial found treatment with the granisetron patch non-inferior to oral daily dosing of the same 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist.

Clinical Question 11. What is the optimal antiemetic regimen for patients who experience nausea and vomiting secondary to cancer therapy despite optimal prophylaxis?

Recommendation 11.

Language from the 2006 guideline was re-formatted for clarity. Clinicians should:

- (1) Re-evaluate emetic risk, disease status, concurrent illnesses, and medications;
- (2) Ascertain that the best regimen is being administered for the emetic risk;
- (3) Consider adding lorazepam or alprazolam to the regimen; and
- (4) Consider adding olanzapine to the regimen or substituting high-dose intravenous metoclopramide for the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist or adding a dopamine antagonist to the regimen.

Literature update and analysis 11. No new evidence was identified.

Clinical Question 12. What treatment options are available for patients who experience anticipatory nausea and vomiting?

Recommendation 12. Use of the most active antiemetic regimens appropriate for the chemotherapy being administered to prevent acute or delayed emesis is suggested. Such regimens should be used with initial chemotherapy, rather than assessing the patient's emetic response with less effective treatment. If anticipatory emesis occurs, behavioral therapy with systematic desensitization is effective and suggested. No change since the original guideline.

Literature update and analysis 12. No new evidence was identified.

Radiation-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (RINV)

This guideline update includes an updated risk stratification table according to site of radiation treatment. MASCC updated the radiation therapy emetic risk table at the MASCC/ESMO 2009 consensus conference (Table 4) which was adopted by ASCO for this guideline update. Dosing schedules, according to risk level, are detailed in Table 5.

Clinical Question 13. What is the optimal prophylaxis for nausea and vomiting caused by high emetic risk radiation therapy?

Recommendation 13. Based on extrapolation of indirect evidence, the Update Committee recommends that all patients should receive a 5-HT $_3$ receptor antagonist before each fraction and for at least 24 hours after completion of radiotherapy. Patients should also receive a five-day course of dexamethasone during fractions 1-5.

Literature update and analysis 13. No new evidence was identified. The updated recommendation was modified to suggest dexamethasone for all patients, based on evidence relevant to the moderate risk category.³⁷ The Update Committee speculated that patients undergoing more highly emetogenic therapy would also receive a benefit.

Clinical Question 14. What is the optimal prophylaxis for nausea and vomiting caused by moderate emetic risk radiation therapy?

Recommendation 14. The Update Committee recommends that patients receive a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist before each fraction for the entire course of radiotherapy. Patients may be offered a short course of dexamethasone during fractions 1-5.

Literature update and analysis 14. Only one new trial was identified.³⁷ This compared the addition of a five-day course of dexamethasone during the first five fractions of radiation with placebo among patients undergoing radiation to the upper abdomen. Only two comparisons were statistically significant; both were secondary endpoints and considered the whole study period (fractions 1-15). The addition of dexamethasone proved superior for complete emetic protection (23% vs. 12%; p= 0.02) and lower average nausea score (0.28 vs. 0.39; p= 0.03). Complete nausea control showed a trend favoring dexamethasone treatment (50% vs. 38%; p= 0.06) during the first five fractions. Patients were also less likely to use rescue medications (71% vs. 82%; p= 0.09) during the entire study period.

Clinical Question 15. What is the optimal treatment to manage nausea and vomiting associated with low emetic risk radiation therapy?

Recommendation 15. The Update Committee recommends a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist alone as either prophylaxis or rescue. For patients who experience RINV while receiving rescue therapy only, prophylactic treatment should continue until radiotherapy is complete.

Literature update and analysis 15. The recommendation was modified to include rescue therapy. Previously published studies suggest that prophylactic treatment does not offer benefits over rescue therapy.

Clinical Question 16. What is the optimal treatment to manage nausea and vomiting associated with minimal emetic risk radiation therapy?

Recommendation 16. Patients should receive rescue therapy with either a dopamine receptor antagonist or a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist. Prophylactic antiemetics should continue throughout radiation treatment if a patient experiences RINV while receiving rescue therapy.

Literature update and analysis 16. No new evidence was identified.

Clinical Question 17. What is the optimal treatment to manage nausea and vomiting during concurrent radiation and chemotherapy?

Recommendation 17. Patients should receive antiemetic prophylaxis according to the emetogenicity of chemotherapy, unless the emetic risk with the planned radiotherapy is higher. No change from the original guideline.

Literature update and analysis 17. No new evidence was identified.

Drug Formulations, Agent Dosing

A study published in 2007 compared an orally disintegrating tablet (ODT) of ondansetron with a standard tablet²² (Data Supplement). No differences were reported in emesis or nausea control between the two agents. Notably, it is not clear whether this study was designed as a non-equivalence trial a *priori*. The ODT formulation is an acceptable alternative to the standard ondansetron tablet.

Two antiemetic agents received regulatory approval in alternative formulations since the 2006 update. Granisetron is also available as a transdermal patch that delivers therapy over seven days. As described earlier, this is an option for patients receiving multi-day, high risk chemotherapy regimens.⁴⁷ The panel also suggests that the granisetron patch may be useful for patients undergoing high or moderate risk radiation.

Oral palonosetron was approved by the FDA in 2008.⁴⁸ Data detailing antiemetic similarity of the oral and intravenous formulations and agent safety was presented at the 2007 ECCO meeting.¹⁸ This trial also supported the 0.50 mg dose.

Three studies assessed dosing of intravenous palonosetron. A meta-analysis of eight studies suggested similar outcomes (Data Supplement) with respect to complete response among patients treated with either 0.25 mg or 0.75 mg doses.²⁰ The other two trials reported findings that a dose of 0.075 mg is clearly inferior to both 0.25 mg and 0.75 mg.^{19,21}

PATIENT AND CLINICIAN COMMUNICATION

The purpose of this section is to address aspects of patient-provider communication that play a role in decision-making about antiemetic therapy and the selection of agents. The Update Committee encourages clinicians to provide patients with a prescription for a rescue antiemetic therapy before the patient leaves the treatment facility on the first day of treatment. Data suggest that physicians frequently underestimate rates of nausea and vomiting secondary to radiation therapy and chemotherapy.⁴⁹

In order to ensure optimal symptom management, clinicians should assess symptoms throughout the course of therapy. Clinicians and clinical researchers should consider collecting direct reports of symptom presence and severity by patients with a checklist. Patient response to treatment may change over time, thus requiring ongoing assessments and modification to antiemetic strategies. For example, the National Cancer Institute is developing a Patient-Reported Outcomes version of its Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE), which includes two items to assess nausea:⁵⁰

- In the last 7 days, how OFTEN did you have NAUSEA (Never / Rarely / Occasionally / Frequently / Almost constantly)
- 2) In the last 7 days, what was the SEVERITY of your NAUSEA at its WORST (None / Mild / Moderate / Severe / Very severe)

Clinicians and patients are also encouraged to discuss costs of treatment, particularly to assess if cost is prohibitive, a hardship to patients, or may impact treatment compliance.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

Although ASCO clinical practice guidelines represent evidence-based expert recommendations on the best practices in disease management to provide the highest level of cancer care, it is important to note that many patients have limited access to medical care. Racial and ethnic disparities in health care contribute significantly to this problem in the United States. Minority racial/ethnic cancer patients suffer disproportionately from co-morbidities, they experience more substantial obstacles to receiving care, are more likely to be uninsured or underinsured, and are at greater risk of receiving care of poor quality than other Americans. Other patients lack access to care because of geography and, specifically, distance from appropriate treatment facilities. Other factors associated with disparities in either health or healthcare include advanced age, those with low educational attainment, and low socioeconomic status. Awareness of these disparities in access to care should be considered in the context of this clinical practice guideline and health care providers should strive to deliver the highest level of cancer care to these vulnerable populations.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

For most patients, antiemetic regimens prevent emesis and lessen nausea while undergoing cancer therapy. However, patients continue to report nausea. ⁵⁵ Identification of new approaches to improve nausea control are required. There has been limited research conducted in special populations who may experience nausea and vomiting secondary to cancer treatment, particularly pediatric patients. Research to control symptoms in these patients is also necessary.

Similarly, few randomized, controlled trials have investigated the role of antiemetics in patients undergoing radiation therapy. As such, limited evidence is available to support current recommendations. The lack of evidence is compounded by an underestimation of RINV among clinicians treating these patients.

While most trials reported vomiting outcomes, nausea was less completely reported. Moreover, a variety of measures to assess the incidence of nausea were utilized, and, in some cases, methods to assess nausea were not specified by the authors. Some trials reported complete protection, which is defined as no nausea or vomiting and no use of rescue therapy. The Update Panel recommends that studies which include nausea as an outcome include patient-reported measures of nausea and other symptoms which are consistent with the recommendations of the Food and Drug Administration's Guidance in this area (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration. Guidance for industry: Patient-reported outcomes measures: Use in medical product development to support labeling claims). ⁵⁶ Standardized approaches to the assessment of nausea which can be employed across trials will allow for improved ability to compare regimens.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The data supplement, including evidence tables, and clinical tools and resources can be found at www.asco.org/guidelines/antiemetics. Patient information is available there as well and also at www.cancer.net.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Update Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Steven Grunberg, Dr. Kristopher Dennis, Dr. Edward Chow, Dr. Carlo DeAngelis, Dr. Amy Abernethy, Dr. Michael Danso, Dr. James L. Abbruzzese, Dr. Robert Langdon, the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee, and the ASCO Board of Directors for their thoughtful reviews of earlier drafts. Special thanks to Shauniece Morris, Pamela B. Mangu, and Sarah Temin for their help with data checking and data extraction.

REFERENCES

- 1. Gralla RJ, Osoba D, Kris MG, et al: Recommendations for the use of antiemetics: evidence-based, clinical practice guidelines. American Society of Clinical Oncology. J Clin Oncol 17:2971-94, 1999
- 2. Kris MG, Hesketh PJ, Somerfield MR, et al: American Society of Clinical Oncology guideline for antiemetics in oncology: update 2006. J Clin Oncol 24:2932-47, 2006
- 3. Peterson K, McDonagh MS, Carson S, et al: Drug class review: Newer antiemetics. Update 1. http://www.ohsu.edu/drugeffectiveness/reports/final.cfm, 2008, pp 5
- 4. Grunberg SM, Chua DT, Maru A, et al: Phase III randomized double-blind study of single-dose fosaprepitant for prevention of cisplatin-induced nausea and vomiting. Journal of Clinical Oncology (suppl; abstract 9021) 28, 2010
- 5. Herrington JD, Jaskiewicz AD, Song J: Randomized, placebo-controlled, pilot study evaluating aprepitant single dose plus palonosetron and dexamethasone for the prevention of acute and delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Cancer 112:2080-7, 2008
- 6. Hoshi E, Takahashi t, Takagi M, et al: Aprepitant prevents chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in Japanese cancer patients receiving high-does cisplatin: a multicenter randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study (abstract P-20). Presented at the 20th Anniversay International MASCC/ISOO Symposium, St. Gallen, Switzerland, June 27-30, 2007, 2007
- 7. Navari R, Gray S, Kerr A: Olanzapine versus aprepitant for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (Cinv): a randomized trial (abstract 02-010). Presented at the 2010 MASCC/ISOO Symposium, Vancouver, Canada, June 24-26, 2010, 2010
- 8. Yeo W, Mo FK, Suen JJ, et al: A randomized study of aprepitant, ondansetron and dexamethasone for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in Chinese breast cancer patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. Breast Cancer Res Treat 113:529-35, 2009
- 9. Aapro M, Fabi A, Nole F, et al: Double-blind, randomised, controlled study of the efficacy and tolerability of palonosetron plus dexamethasone for 1 day with or without dexamethasone on days 2 and 3 in the prevention of nausea and vomiting induced by moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. Ann Oncol 21:1083-8, 2010
- 10. Celio L, Bajetta E, Denaro A, et al: Single-day regimen of palonosetron (PALO) and dexamethasone (DEX) for the prevention of emesis associated with moderately emetogenic chemotherapy (MEC): Subgroup analysis from a randomized phase III trial. J Clin Oncol 27 (suppl; abstr 9620), 2009
- 11. Rapoport BL, Jordan K, Boice JA, et al: Aprepitant for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting associated with a broad range of moderately emetogenic chemotherapies and tumor types: a randomized, double-blind study. Support Care Cancer 18:423-31, 2010
- 12. Aapro MS, Grunberg SM, Manikhas GM, et al: A phase III, double-blind, randomized trial of palonosetron compared with ondansetron in preventing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting following highly emetogenic chemotherapy. Ann Oncol 17:1441-9, 2006
- 13. Saito M, Aogi K, Sekine I, et al: Palonosetron plus dexamethasone versus granisetron plus dexamethasone for prevention of nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy: a double-blind, double-dummy, randomised, comparative phase III trial. Lancet Oncol 10:115-24, 2009
- 14. Yu Z, Liu W, Wang L, et al: The efficacy and safety of palonosetron compared with granisetron in preventing highly emetogenic chemotherapy-induced vomiting in the Chinese cancer patients: a phase II, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, parallel, comparative clinical trial. Support Care Cancer 17:99-102, 2009
- 15. Ezzo J, Richardson MA, Vickers A, et al: Acupuncture-point stimulation for chemotherapy-induced nausea or vomiting. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 1, 2010

- 16. Ho CL, Su WC, Hsieh RK, et al: A randomized, double-blind, parallel, comparative study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of ramosetron plus dexamethasone injection for the prevention of acute chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Jpn J Clin Oncol 40:294-301, 2010
- 17. Boccia RV, Gonzalez EF, Pluzanska G, et al: Palonosetron (PALO), administered orally or intravenously (IV), plus dexamethasone for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). J Clin Oncol (May 20 suppl; abstract 20608), 2008
- 18. Grunberg S, Voisin D, Zufferli M, et al: Oral palonosetron is as effective as intravenous palonesetron: a Phase III dose ranging trial in patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. Presented at the 14th European Conference of Clinical Oncology (ECCO); 23-27 September 2007; Barcelona, Spain, 2007
- 19. Maemondo M, Masuda N, Sekine I, et al: A phase II study of palonosetron combined with dexamethasone to prevent nausea and vomiting induced by highly emetogenic chemotherapy. Ann Oncol 20:1860-6, 2009
- 20. Raftopoulos H, Bria E, Gralla RJ, et al: Is there a preferred dose of palonosetron? Results of an abstracted data (AD) meta-analysis (MA) of all eight randomized double-blind (RDB) studies and the impact on guideline considerations. J Clin Oncol (suppl; abstr 9636) 27, 2009
- 21. Segawa Y, Aogi K, Inoue K, et al: A phase II dose-ranging study of palonosetron in Japanese patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy, including anthracycline and cyclophosphamide-based chemotherapy. Ann Oncol 20:1874-80, 2009
- 22. Pectasides D, Dafni U, Aravantinos G, et al: A randomized trial to compare the efficacy and safety of antiemetic treatment with ondansetron and ondansetron zydis in patients with breast cancer treated with high-dose epirubicin. Anticancer Res 27:4411-7, 2007
- 23. Boccia RV, Gordan LN, Clark G, et al: Efficacy and tolerability of transdermal granisetron for the control of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting associated with moderately and highly emetogenic multi-day chemotherapy: a randomized, double-blind, phase III study. Support Care Cancer, 2010
- 24. Giralt S, Mangan K, Maziarz R, et al: Palonosetron (PALO) for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in patients receiving high-dose melphalan prior to stem cell transplant (SCT). J Clin Oncol (May 20 suppl; abstract 9617) 26, 2008
- 25. Stiff P, Fox-Geiman M, Kiley K, et al: Aprepitant Vs. Placebo Plus Oral Ondansetron and Dexamethasone for the Prevention of Nausea and Vomiting Associated with Highly Emetogenic Preparative Regimens Prior to Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: A Prospective, Randomized Double-Blind Phase III Trial (abstract 2267). Blood (ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts) 114, 2009
- 26. Walsh T, Morris AK, Holle LM, et al: Granisetron vs ondansetron for prevention of nausea and vomiting in hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients: results of a prospective, double-blind, randomized trial. Bone Marrow Transplant 34:963-8, 2004
- 27. Brames MJ, Johnson EL, Nichols CR, et al: A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Study Evaluating the Oral Neurokinin-1 Receptor Antagonist Aprepitant in Combination with a 5HT3 Antagonist and Dexamethasone in Patients with Germ Cell Tumors Undergoing 5-day Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy Regimens. A Hoosier Oncology Group Study (H.O.G.) (abs. Support Care Cancer (suppl 3; abstract 02-004):S67-S220, 2010
- 28. Herrstedt J, Sigsgaard TC, Nielsen HA, et al: Randomized, double-blind trial comparing the antiemetic effect of tropisetron plus metopimazine with tropisetron plus placebo in patients receiving multiple cycles of multiple-day cisplatin-based chemotherapy. Support Care Cancer 15:417-26, 2007
- 29. Gore L, Chawla S, Petrilli A, et al: Aprepitant in adolescent patients for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of efficacy and tolerability. Pediatr Blood Cancer 52:242-7, 2009

- 30. Sepulveda-Vildosola AC, Betanzos-Cabrera Y, Lastiri GG, et al: Palonosetron hydrochloride is an effective and safe option to prevent chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in children. Arch Med Res 39:601-6, 2008
- 31. Pillai AK, Sharma KK, Gupta YK, et al: Anti-emetic effect of ginger powder versus placebo as an add-on therapy in children and young adults receiving high emetogenic chemotherapy. Pediatr Blood Cancer 56:234-8, 2011
- 32. Ryan JL, Heckler C, Dakhil SR, et al: Ginger for chemotherapy-related nausea in cancer patients: A URCC CCOP randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of 644 cancer patients. J Clin Oncol (suppl; abstr 9511) 27, 2009
- 33. Tan L, Liu J, Liu X, et al: Clinical research of Olanzapine for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. J Exp Clin Cancer Res 28:131, 2009
- 34. Zick SM, Ruffin MT, Lee J, et al: Phase II trial of encapsulated ginger as a treatment for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Support Care Cancer 17:563-72, 2009
- 35. Fabi A, Ciccarese M, Metro G, et al: Oral ondansetron is highly active as rescue antiemetic treatment for moderately emetogenic chemotherapy: results of a randomized phase II study. Support Care Cancer 16:1375-80, 2008
- 36. Lajolo PP, de Camargo B, del Giglio A: Omission of day 2 of antiemetic medications is a cost saving strategy for improving chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting control: results of a randomized phase III trial. Am J Clin Oncol 32:23-6, 2009
- 37. Wong RK, Paul N, Ding K, et al: 5-hydroxytryptamine-3 receptor antagonist with or without short-course dexamethasone in the prophylaxis of radiation induced emesis: a placebo-controlled randomized trial of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group (SC19). J Clin Oncol 24:3458-64, 2006
- 38. Hesketh PJ, Kris MG, Grunberg SM, et al: Proposal for classifying the acute emetogenicity of cancer chemotherapy. J Clin Oncol 15:103-9, 1997
- 39. Roila F, Herrstedt J, Aapro M, et al: Guideline update for MASCC and ESMO in the prevention of chemotherapy- and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: results of the Perugia consensus conference. Ann Oncol 21 Suppl 5:v232-43, 2010
- 40. Gralla RJ, Roila F, Tonato M, et al: MASCC/ESMO Antiemetic Guideline 2010. http://data.memberclicks.com/site/mascc/MASCC Guidelines English 2010.pdf. 2010
- 41. Grunberg S, Chua D, Maru A, et al: Single-Dose Fosaprepitant for the Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting Associated With Cisplatin Therapy: Randomized, Double-Blind Study Protocol--EASE. J Clin Oncol, 2011
- 42. Billio A, Morello E, Clarke MJ: Serotonin receptor antagonists for highly emetogenic chemotherapy in adults. Art. No. CD006272. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006272.pub2. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 1, 2010
- 43. Jordan K, Hinke A, Grothey A, et al: A meta-analysis comparing the efficacy of four 5-HT3-receptor antagonists for acute chemotherapy-induced emesis. Support Care Cancer 15:1023-33, 2007
- 44. Prescribing informatoin for EMEND (fosaprepitant dimeglumine) for Injection http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda docs/label/2010/022023s002s003s005lbl.pdf, 2010
- 45. Celio L, Frustaci S, Denaro A, et al: Palonosetron in combination with 1-day versus 3-day dexamethasone for prevention of nausea and vomiting following moderately emetogenic chemotherapy: a randomized, multicenter, phase III trial. Support Care Cancer, 2010
- 46. Phillips RS, Gopaul S: Antiemetic Medication for prevention and treatment of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting in childhood. Art. No. CD007786. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007786.pub2. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 9, 2010

- 47. Granisetron Drug Information
- http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda docs/appletter/2008/022198s000ltr.pdf, 2010
- 48. Food and Drug Administration Drug Information. on Oral palonosetron http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm?fuseaction=Search.DrugDetails, 2010
- 49. Basch E: The missing voice of patients in drug-safety reporting. N Engl J Med 362:865-9, 2010
- 50. Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the CTCAE (PRO-CTCAE). https://wiki.nci.nih.gov/display/PROCTCAE/Patient-Reported+Outcomes+version+of+the+CTCAE+%28PRO-CTCAE%29, 2010
- 51. U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2002 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute. Atlanta, 2005
- 52. American Cancer Society. Cancer facts and figures for African Americans 2005-2006. . Atlanta, 2005
- 53. Mead H, Cartwright-Smith L, Jones K, et al: Racial and ethnic disparities in U.S. health care: a chartbook. New York, The Commonwealth Fund, 2008
- 54. Ries LAG, Eisner MP, Kossary CL, et al: SEER cancer statistics review 1973-1997. National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, 2000
- 55. Hickok JT, Roscoe JA, Morrow GR, et al: Nausea and emesis remain significant problems of chemotherapy despite prophylaxis with 5-hydroxytryptamine-3 antiemetics: a University of Rochester James P. Wilmot Cancer Center Community Clinical Oncology Program Study of 360 cancer patients treated in the community. Cancer 97:2880-6, 2003
- 56. Guidance for Industry. Patient-Reported Outcome Measures: Use in Medical Product Development to Support Labeling Claims.

http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM193 282.pdf, 2009

TABLE 1. Summary of Recommendations

	2006	2011
Chemotherapy-Ind	uced Nausea and Vomiting	
Highly emetogenic agents	The three-drug combination of a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist, dexamethasone, and aprepitant is recommended before chemotherapy. In all patients receiving cisplatin and all other agents of high emetic risk, the two-drug combination of dexamethasone and aprepitant is recommended. The Update Committee no longer recommends the combination of a 5-HT3 serotonin receptor antagonist and dexamethasone on days 2 and 3.	The three-drug combination of an NK ₁ receptor antagonist (days 1-3 for aprepitant; day 1 only for fosaprepitant), a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist (day 1 only), and dexamethasone (days 1-3 or 1-4) is recommended for patients receiving highly emetogenic chemotherapy. This recommendation is unchanged since the 2006 update, but re-worded for clarification. The Update Committee also recommended reclassification of the combined anthracycline and
		cyclophosphamide regimen as highly emetogenic.
Moderately emetogenic agents	The three-drug combination of a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist, dexamethasone, and aprepitant is recommended for patients receiving AC. For patients receiving chemotherapy of moderate emetic risk other than AC, we recommend the two-drug combination of a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist and dexamethasone. In patients receiving AC, aprepitant as a single agent is recommended on days 2 and 3. For all other chemotherapies of moderate emetic risk, single-agent dexamethasone or a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist is suggested for the prevention of emesis on days 2 and 3.	The two-drug combination of palonosetron (day 1 only) and dexamethasone (days 1-3) is recommended for patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. If palonosetron is not available, clinicians may substitute a first generation 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist, preferably granisetron or ondansetron. Limited evidence also supports adding aprepitant to the combination. Should clinicians opt to add aprepitant in patients receiving moderate-risk chemotherapy, any one of the 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonists is appropriate.
Low emetogenic agents	Dexamethasone 8 mg is suggested. No routine preventive use of antiemetics	A single 8 mg dose of dexamethasone before chemotherapy is suggested. No
	for delayed emesis is suggested.	change since 2006.
Minimally	No change from the original guideline.	No antiemetic should be administered
emetogenic	No antiemetic should be administered	routinely before or after chemotherapy.
agents	routinely before or after chemotherapy.	No change from the original guideline.

	2006	2011
Combination chemotherapy	No change from the original guideline. Patients should be administered antiemetics appropriate for the chemotherapeutic agent of greatest emetic risk.	Patients should be administered antiemetics appropriate for the component chemotherapeutic (antineoplastic) agent of greatest emetic risk. No change from the original guideline. Anthracycline-cyclophosphamide combinations are now classified as highly emetogenic.
Adjunctive drugs	Lorazepam and diphenhydramine are useful adjuncts to antiemetic drugs, but are not recommended as single agents.	Lorazepam or diphenhydramine are useful adjuncts to antiemetic drugs, but are not recommended as single agent antiemetics. No change since 2006.
Complementary therapy	New question for 2011 update.	No published randomized controlled trial data which met inclusion criteria are currently available to support a recommendation about such therapies.
Pediatric patients	The combination of a 5-HT ₃ antagonist plus a corticosteroid is suggested before chemotherapy in children receiving chemotherapy of high or moderate emetic risk. Due to variation of pharmacokinetic parameters in children, higher weight-based doses of 5-HT3 antagonists than those used in adults may be required for antiemetic protection.	The combination of a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist plus a corticosteroid is suggested before chemotherapy in children receiving chemotherapy of high or moderate emetic risk. Due to variation of pharmacokinetic parameters in children, higher weight-based doses of 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonists than those used in adults may be required for antiemetic protection. No change since 2006.
High-dose chemotherapy with stem cell or bone marrow transplant	No change from original guideline. A 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist antiemetic combined with dexamethasone is suggested. Aprepitant should be considered although evidence to support its use specifically in these patients is lacking.	A 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist combined with dexamethasone is suggested. Aprepitant should be considered, although evidence to support its use is limited.

	2006	2011
Multi-day	No change from the original guideline. It	It is suggested that antiemetics
chemotherapy	is suggested that antiemetics	appropriate for the emetogenic risk
	appropriate for the risk class of the	class of the chemotherapy be
	chemotherapy, as outlined above, be	administered for each day of the
	administered for each day of the	chemotherapy and for two days after, if
	chemotherapy and for 2 days after, if	appropriate. No change from the
	appropriate.	original guideline.
		The Update Committee suggests, based
		on limited data, that patients receiving
		five-day cisplatin regimens be treated
		with a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist in
		combination with dexamethasone and
		aprepitant.
Emesis or Nausea	No change from original guideline. The	Clinicians should:
despite optimal	Update Committee suggests that	(1) Re-evaluate emetic risk, disease
prophylaxis	clinicians (1) conduct a careful re-	status, concurrent illnesses, and
	evaluation of emetic risk, disease status,	medications;
	concurrent illnesses, and medications;	(2) Ascertain that the best regimen is
	(2) ascertain that the best regimen is	being administered for the emetic risk;
	being administered for the emetic risk;	(3) Consider adding lorazepam or
	(3) consider adding an lorazepam or	alprazolam to the regimen; and
	alprazolam to the regimen; and (4)	(4) Consider adding olanzapine to the
	consider substituting a high-dose	regimen or substituting high-dose
	intravenous metoclopramide for the 5-	intravenous metoclopramide for the 5-
	HT ₃ antagonist or adding a dopamine	HT ₃ receptor antagonist or adding a
A 4	antagonist to the regimen.	dopamine antagonist to the regimen.
Anticipatory	No change since the original guideline. Use of the most active antiemetic	Use of the most active antiemetic
nausea and		regimens appropriate for the
vomiting	regimens appropriate for the chemotherapy being administered to	chemotherapy being administered to prevent acute or delayed emesis is
	prevent acute or delayed emesis is	suggested. Such regimens should be
	suggested. Such regimens may be used	used with initial chemotherapy, rather
	with the initial chemotherapy, rather	than assessing the patient's emetic
	than assessing the patient's emetic	response with less effective treatment.
	response with less effective treatment.	If anticipatory emesis occurs, behavioral
	If anticipatory emesis occurs, behavioral	therapy with systematic desensitization
	therapy with systematic desensitization	is effective and suggested. No change
	is effective and suggested.	since the original guideline.
	is circuite and supposited.	Since the original gardenne.

Radiation Induced Nausea and Vomiting			
	2006	2011	
High Risk	No change from original guideline. The Update Committee suggests administration a 5-HT ₃ antagonist with or without a corticosteroid before each fraction and for at least 24 hours after. There is no change from the original guideline.	Based on extrapolation of evidence, the Update Committee recommends that all patients should receive a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist before each fraction and for at least 24 hours after completion of radiotherapy. Patients should also receive a five-day course of dexamethasone before fractions 1-5.	
Moderate Risk	The Update Committee recommends a 5-HT ₃ antagonist before each fraction. The Update Committee recommends a that patients receive a 5-HT ₃ recommends a that patients receive a fraction entire course of radiotherapy. Promay be offered a short course (for 1-5) of dexamethasone before treatment.		
Low Risk	No change from original guideline. The Update Committee recommends a 5-HT ₃ antagonist before each fraction.	The Update Committee recommends a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist alone as either prophylaxis or rescue. For patients who experience RINV while receiving rescue therapy only, prophylactic treatment should continue until radiotherapy is complete.	
Minimal Risk	No change from original guideline. The Update Committee suggests that treatment be administered on an asneeded basis only. Dopamine or serotonin receptor antagonists are advised. Antiemetics should be continued prophylactically for each remaining radiation treatment day.	Patients should receive rescue therapy with either a dopamine receptor antagonist or a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist. Prophylactic antiemetics should continue throughout radiation treatment if a patient experiences RINV while receiving rescue therapy.	
Combined Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy	No change. Patients should receive rescue therapy with a dopamine-receptor antagonists or a 5-HT ₃ receptor antagonist. Antiemetics should be continued prophylactically for each remaining radiation treatment day.	Patients should receive antiemetic prophylaxis according to the emetogenicity of chemotherapy, unless the emetic risk with the planned radiotherapy is higher. No change from the original guideline.	

TABLE 2. Emetic Risk of Intravenous Antineoplastic Agents*

High	Carmustine	Dactinomycin
	Cisplatin	Mechlorethamine
	Cyclophosphamide ≥ 1,500 mg/m ² Dacarbazine	Streptozotocin
	Dacai bazille	
Moderate	Azacitidine	Daunorubicin ¹
	Alemtuzumab	Doxorubicin ¹
	Bendamustine	Epirubicin ¹
	Carboplatin	Idarubicin ¹
	Clofarabine	Ifosfamide
	Cyclophosphamide < 1,500 mg/m ²	Irinotecan
	Cytarabine > 1000 mg/m ²	Oxaliplatin
Low	5-Fluorouracil	Methotrexate
	Bortezomib	Mitomycin
	Carbezetaxel	Mitoxantrone
	Catumaxumab	Paclitaxel
	Cytarabine ≤ 1,000 mg/m²	Panitumumab
	Docetaxel	Pemetrexed
	Doxorubicin HCL liposome injection	Temsirolimus
	Etoposide	Topotecan
	Gemcitabine	Trastuzumab
	Ixabepilone	
Minimal	2-Chlorodeoxyadenosine	Pralatrexate
	Bevacizumab	Rituximab
	Bleomycin	Vinblastine
	Busulfan	Vincristine
	Cetuximab	Vinorelbine
	Fludarabine	

^{*} List is not exhaustive

¹ These anthracyclines, when combined with cyclophosphamide, are now designated as high emetic risk

TABLE 3. Antiemetic Dosing by Chemotherapy Risk Category

		Day of	
		Chemotherapy	Subsequent Days
High Emetic Risk (I	HEC) ^a		
NIV Antagonist	Aprepitant	125 mg oral	80 mg oral; days 2 and 3
NK ₁ Antagonist	Fosaprepitant	150 mg IV	
	Granisetron	2 mg oral OR	
		1 mg or 0.01 mg/Kg IV	
	Ondansetron	8 mg oral twice daily OR	
5-HT₃ Receptor		8 mg or 0.15 mg/Kg IV	
Antagonist	Palonosetron	0.50 mg oral OR	
		0.25 mg IV	
	Dolasetron	100 mg oral ONLY	
	Tropisetron	5 mg oral OR 5 mg IV	
	Ramosetron	0.3mg IV	
Corticosteroid b	Dexamethasone	12 mg oral or IV	8 mg oral or IV; days 2 – 3
Corticosteroia			or days 2 – 4
Moderate Emetic I	Risk (MEC) ^c		
5-HT₃ Receptor	Palonosetron	0.25 mg IV OR	
Antagonist	Palonosetron	0.50 mg oral	
Corticosteroid	Dexamethasone	8 mg oral or IV	8 mg; days 2 and 3
Low Emetic Risk	-		
Corticosteroid	Dexamethasone	8 mg oral or IV	

For patients receiving multi-day chemotherapy, clinicians must first determine the emetic risk of the agent(s) included in the regimen. Patients should receive the agent of the highest therapeutic index daily during chemotherapy and for two days thereafter. Patients can also be offered the granisetron transdermal patch (Sancuso) that delivers therapy over multiple days rather than taking a serotonin antagonist daily.

^a Includes AC (combination of anthracycline and cyclophosphamide)

^b The dexamethasone dose is for patients who are receiving the recommended three-drug regimen for highly emetic chemotherapy. If patients do not receive aprepitant, the dexamethasone dose should be adjusted to 20mg on day 1 and 16 mg on days 2-4

^c Clinicians who choose to utilize an NK₁ antagonist should follow HEC dosing. Importantly, corticosteroid is **only** given on day one; dexamethasone dose is 12 mg.

TABLE 4. Emetic Risk by Site of Radiation Therapy⁴⁰

	T	
High	Total Body Irradiation (TBI)	
	Total Nodal Irradiation	
Moderate	Upper Abdomen	
	Upper Body Irradiation (UBI)	
	Half Body Irradiation (HBI)	
Low	Cranium	
	Craniospinal	
	Head and Neck	
	Lower Thorax Region	
	Pelvis	
Minimal	Extremities	
	Breast	

TABLE 5. Antiemetic Dosing by Radiation Risk Category

		Dose	Schedule	
High Emetic Risk				
	Granisetron ^a	2 mg oral	5-HT ₃ antagonist before each fraction	
		1 mg or 0.01 mg/kg IV	throughout XRT. Continue for at least	
-	Ondansetron ^a	8mg oral twice daily	24 hours following completion of XRT.	
5-HT₃ Receptor		8 mg or 0.15 mg/kg IV		
Antagonist	Palonosetron ^b	0.50 mg oral	-	
		0.25mg IV		
-	Dolasetron	100 mg oral ONLY	_	
-	Tropisetron	5 mg oral or IV	-	
Corticosteroid	Dexamethasone	4 mg oral or IV	Before fractions 1-5	
Moderate Emetic Risk				
5-HT₃ Receptor	Any of the above listed agents are		5-HT ₃ antagonist before each fraction	
Antagonist	acceptable, note p	referred options ^b	throughout XRT	
Corticosteroid	Dexamethasone	4 mg IV or oral	Before fractions 1-5	
Low Emetic Risk				
	Any of the above li	sted agents are	5-HT ₃ either as rescue or prophylaxis. If	
5-HT₃ Receptor	acceptable, note p	referred options	rescue is utilized, then prophylactic	
Antagonist			therapy should be given until the end	
			of XRT.	
Minimal Emetic R	Minimal Emetic Risk			
5-HT₃ Receptor	Any of the above li	sted agents are	Detionts should be affined at the second	
Antagonist	acceptable, note p	referred options	Patients should be offered either class	
Dopamine	Metoclopramide	20 mg oral	- as rescue therapy. If rescue is utilized,	
receptor			then prophylactic therapy should be	
antagonist	Prochlorperazine	10 oral or IV	given until the end of XRT.	

IV, intravenous; XRT, radiation therapy; bid, twice daily; qid, four times daily; q, every; h, hours;

^a Preferred Agents

^b No data are currently available on the appropriate dosing frequency with palonosetron in this setting. The Update Committee suggests dosing every second or third day may be appropriate for this agent.

TABLE 6. Antiemetic Estimated Cost Table*

Agent	Price per Dose	Total Cost per	
	(USD)*	Treatment Cycle ¹	
NK₁ Antagonists			
Aprepitant, 125 mg oral	150.45	343.03	
Aprepitant, 80 mg oral	96.29	345.05	
Fosaprepitant, 150 mg IV	262.65	262.65	
5-HT₃ Receptor Antagonists			
Granisetron, 2 mg oral	0.68	0.68	
Granisetron, 1 mg IV	17.92	17.92	
Ondansetron, 8 mg oral	1.04	2.08	
Ondansetron, 8 mg IV	1.19	2.38	
Aloxi®, 0.25 mg IV	188.68	188.68	
Dolasetron, 100 mg oral	65.21	65.21	
Ramosetron	Pricing no	t available	

^{*} Drug prices were estimated from a third-party payor perspective, based on reimbursement rates from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as of the first quarter 2011, computed at the manufacturer's average sales price plus 6 percent. Other treatment-related direct and indirect costs or discounts were not considered. Actual treatment costs and reimbursement vary considerably across regions, payers, institutions, and practices, as well as over time, and the reader should consult current local cost information specific to his or her specific context.

¹Treatment cycle assumed for single-day chemotherapy agents

APPENDIX A1: Update Committee Members, 2011

711 1 ENDIX 712: Opuate Committee Members, 2011	
Ethan Basch, MD Co-Chair	Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Gary H. Lyman, MD Co-Chair	Duke University
Paul J. Hesketh, MD Steering Committee	Lahey Clinic Medical Center
Mark G. Kris, MD Steering Committee	Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Maurice Chesney	Patient Representative
Rebecca Anne Clark-Snow, RN	Lawrence Memorial Hospital Oncology Center
Petra C. Feyer MD	Vivantes Clinic of Radiooncology and Nuclear
	Medicine
Anne Marie Flaherty, RN	Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Barbara Freundlich, BA	Patient Representative
Gary Morrow, PhD	University of Rochester Cancer Center
Kamakshi V. Rao, PharmD, BCOP, CPP	University of North Carolina Hospital
Rowena N Schwartz, PharmD, BCOP	The Johns Hopkins Hospital