

EPIRUBICIN weekly

INDICATION (ICD10) C50

1. Metastatic breast cancer

REGIMEN

Day 1 EPIRUBICIN 20mg/m² IV bolus

CYCLE FREQUENCY AND NUMBER OF CYCLES

Every 7 days

ANTI-EMETICS

Moderate risk day 1

CONCURRENT MEDICATION REQUIRED

None

EXTRAVASATION AND TYPE OF LINE / FILTERS

Epirubicin - vesicant

No filter required

Central or peripheral line

INVESTIGATIONS

Blood results required before SACT administration

FBC, U&E and LFTs every week

Neutrophils x 10⁹/L ≥1.5

Platelets x 10⁹/L ≥100

ECG (possible ECHO) required if patient has preexisting cardiac disease

Baseline weight and every cycle

MAIN TOXICITIES AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

Epirubicin	Cardiotoxicity – monitor cardiac function. Epirubicin may be stopped in future cycles if signs of cardiotoxicity e.g. cardiac arrhythmias, pericardial effusion, tachycardia with fatigue.
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DOSE MODIFICATIONS

Epirubicin maximum lifetime dose

= 650mg/m² (in patients with cardiac dysfunction or exposed to mediastinal irradiation)

= 1000mg/m² (with normal cardiac function)

Hepatic impairment

Bilirubin 24-51micromol/L	give 50% dose
Bilirubin 52-85micromol/L or AST >4xULN	give 25% dose
Bilirubin >86micromol/L or Child Pugh C	not recommended

REFERENCES

1. Gasparini, G et al; Am J Clin Oncol 1991; 14 (1): 38–44 (weekly dosing)