

E-Bulletin**June 2006, Issue #13**

The OHTAC E-bulletin is issued on a regular basis to provide you with updates on the latest committee recommendations. OHTAC has reviewed several health technologies and all its recommendations are available on the OHTAC Web site at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_mn.html

Should you have additional information about any of these technologies, please submit it to the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) at the contact information found at the end of this bulletin.

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EXTRACORPOREAL PHOTOPHERESIS (ECP)**Issue**

ECP is an immunomodulatory technique based on pheresis of light sensitive cells. Whole blood is removed from the patient and the lymphocytes are treated with methoxsalen (a drug that sensitizes malignant cells to ultraviolet A light [UVA]), exposed to UVA and then returned to the patient. Red blood cells and plasma are returned to the patient between each cycle.

Methoxsalen is not approved for general use by Health Canada and is only available through the special access program. The UVAR XTS Photopheresis System® is licensed by Health Canada for the "palliative treatment of skin manifestations of Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL)", a general name for a group of skin affecting disorders caused by malignant white blood cells. The device is not licensed for the treatment of chronic graft versus host disease (cGvHD), which is associated with allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and results in dysfunction of numerous organ systems or even a profound state of immunodeficiency. As such, it is only available through a Health Canada approved clinical trial, or the special access program.

The purpose of the review is to determine the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of ECP for the treatment of refractory erythrodermic CTCL and refractory cGvHD.

Key Findings

- Overall, there is low quality evidence that ECP improves response rates and survival in patients with refractory erythrodermic CTCL and with refractory cGvHD.
- There were several limitations in the literature including small sample size, uncontrolled retrospective case series, different treatment regimens and diagnostic criteria, response criteria not clearly defined or inconsistent, variable and incomplete follow-up, and concomitant therapy.

**OHTAC
Recommendations**

- ECP be conditionally funded for the treatment of refractory erythrodermic CTCL and refractory cGvHD in the context of a 2 year field evaluation.
- Patient inclusion criteria must be developed by experts in the field (standardized definitions to measure disease outcomes including response rates, quality of life, morbidity).
- Final recommendations to be made by OHTAC based on the results from the 2 year field evaluation and also predicated on the Health Canada regulatory status for methoxsalen and the photopheresis system

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Implications

The current estimate of patient need is 50 CTCL patients and cGvHD (post bone marrow transplant) patients per year. In 2004/05, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care approved 8 applications for 7 distinct patients for out-of-country ECP. The average amount paid per patient was \$US 136,061 (versus approximately \$CN 50,000 per patient for treatment within Canada).

Currently, there is no photopheresis program in Ontario, however, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care has recently announced \$5.15 million in funding for a two year field evaluation at the University Health Network for a select number of Ontario residents who have refractory erythrodermic CTCL or refractory cGvHD.

An application must be submitted to Health Canada for clinical trial approval prior to the commencement of the field evaluation. The final recommendations after the two year field evaluation will also be predicated on the regulatory status of the drug (methoxsalen) and the photopheresis machine.

The full downloadable version of the **Health Technology Policy Assessment** by the Medical Advisory Secretariat can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_ecp_030106.pdf

The **OHTAC recommendation** for this technology can be found at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_ecp_032806.pdf

TECHNOLOGIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

• Cardiac positron emission tomography	• Hydrophilic Catheters
• Electroanatomic cardiac mapping and ablative techniques	• Routine Eye Exams
• Intravascular coronary ultrasound	• Sleep Disorder Clinics
• Metal-on-metal Hip Resurfacing	• Bone Densitometry
• Implantable Cardioverter defibrillator	• Energy delivery systems for treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).
• Gastric Electrical Stimulation	• In-Vitro Fertilization
• Bladder Ultrasound	• Horizon Scanning: Nanotechnology
• Optimum Imaging Breast Technologies for Women 40-49 years of age—Modalities other than Mammography	• Diagnostic Imaging
• Breast Cancer Screening for Women 40-49 years of age--Mammography	• Optimal Health System Design for Screening
• Vascular ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm	• Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
	• Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS)

OHTAC is envisaged as the first step in creating a single portal for providing advice to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the uptake, diffusion, and distribution for new health technologies. Find more about OHTAC, its application process, and its recommendations at the following Web site:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/ohatc_about.html.

Integrated Health Technology Literature Reviews

- Heart failure

Literature Reviews Being Updated

- Mid-Urethral Slings (February 2004)
- Artificial discs (March 2004)
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (December 2004)

PREVIOUS OHTAC RECOMMENDATIONS

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| • Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Environment Safety in Ontario (NOW POSTED!)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/technology/tech_mri_040106.html | April 2006 |
| • Enhanced External Counterpulsation (Update)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_eecp_030106.pdf | March 2006 |
| • Coil Embolization for Intracranial Aneurysms (Update)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_010106.pdf | January 2006 |
| • Automated External Defibrillators
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_aed_120105.pdf | December 2005 |
| • Interim Report on Drug Eluting Stents
http://www.path-hta.ca/DESreport.pdf | December 2005 |
| • Endovascular Repair of Descending Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_thor_110105.pdf | November 2005 |
| • Air Cleaning Technologies
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_act_110105.pdf | November 2005 |
| • Technologies for Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Integrated Health Technology Policy Assessment)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_ostknee_100105.pdf | October 2005 |
| • Biventricular Pacing (Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy)
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_biv_090105.pdf | September 2005 |
| • Arthroscopic Lavage and Debridement
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_lavdeb_090105.pdf | September 2005 |
| • Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Non-Healing Ulcers in Diabetes Mellitus
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hypox_081105.pdf | August 2005 |
| • Interim Report on Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (EVAR)
http://www.path-hta.ca/EVAR%20Interim%20Report%20Jul%202005.pdf | July 2005 |
| • Intra-Articular Viscosupplementation With Hylan G-F 20 To Treat Osteoarthritis of the Knee
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hylan_061705.pdf | June 2005 |
| • Total Knee Replacement
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tkr_061705.pdf | June 2005 |
| • Intrathecal Baclofen Pump for Spasticity
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pump_081605.pdf | May 2005 |
| • Osteogenic Protein-1
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_osteo_070105.pdf | April 2005 |
| • Multi-detector Computed Tomography Angiography for Coronary Artery Disease
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_multi_050105.pdf | April 2005 |
| • Spinal Cord Stimulation for Neuropathic Pain
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_scs_030105.pdf | March 2005 |
| • Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary Incontinence, Urgency-Frequency, Urinary Retention, and Fecal Incontinence
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_sns_030105.pdf | March 2005 |
| • Deep Brain Stimulation in Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_dbs_030105.pdf | March 2005 |

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• Bariatric Surgery http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_baria_010105.pdf	January 2005
• Vacuum Assisted Closure Therapy for Chronic Wounds http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vac_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Balloon Kyphoplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_kypho_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Thermal Balloon Endometrial Ablation for Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tbea_090104.pdf	October 2004
• Primary Angioplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	September 2004
• Bispectral Index Monitor http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	August 2004
• Radio Frequency Ablation for Primary Liver Cancer http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rfa_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Major Depressive Disorder http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rtms_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Coil Embolization For Intracranial Aneurysms http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Pyrocarbon Finger Joint Implant http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pyrocarb_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Video Laryngoscopy for Tracheal Intubation http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vidlaryng_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Bone Morphogenetic Proteins and Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disc Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bmp_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Artificial Discs for Cervical and Lumbar Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_artdisc_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Computer-Assisted Hip and Knee Arthroplasty: Navigation and Robotic Systems http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_arthro_020104.pdf	March 2004
• Computer-Assisted Surgery Using Telem manipulators http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_telman_020104.pdf	March 2004
• Tension-free Vaginal Tape for Stress Urinary Incontinence http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tvt_020104.pdf	February 2004
• Patient Monitoring System for MRI http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_patmri_120103.pdf	February 2004

For any comments related to this E-bulletin, please contact the Medical Advisory Secretariat at:

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