

Adjuvant bisphosphonate service (ABS) in the treatment of early breast cancer

A guide for patients and their carers

You have been given this leaflet because you have been referred to the adjuvant bisphosphonate service (ABS) and chosen to start bisphosphonate treatment for your early breast cancer.

The ABS provides treatment in early breast cancer that may reduce the risk of your breast cancer returning. It is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion in the form of a drug called zoledronic acid. This treatment is only offered to post-menopausal women or women who are rendered post-menopausal due to drug treatments. You will have a total of 6 infusions at approximately 6 monthly intervals. The first infusion will normally be given with chemotherapy however this may be delayed whilst waiting for the consent, vitamin D and dental check. The treatment will last for 3 years in total. You will have a routine blood test before the start of each treatment.

For further information on zoledronic acid please refer to your patient information leaflet.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



What happens once I have been referred to the service?

Your oncologist will refer you to the service. We will check you have signed the consent form, had a vitamin D check (and prescribed treatment if needed) and had a dental check. You will have been given a dental letter that will need to be returned to the ABS by yourself or the dentist (see contact details overleaf).

The service will then co-ordinate your zoledronic acid infusion with your local IV team for treatment closer to home. Once a referral has been made by the ABS to the local IV team, they will contact you to make an appointment for your zoledronic acid infusions. They will also contact you to organise a blood test to check your kidney function and calcium levels a few days before the infusion is given.

Local IV service providers are listed below:

Bolton - Brightmet suite, Royal Bolton Hospital

Bury - Radcliffe Health Centre, Bury

The Christie -

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust or local chemotherapy units

East Cheshire chemotherapy unit at Macclesfield Hospital

Mastercall (Stockport) -

International House, Pepper Road, Hazel Grove SK7 5BW

Oldham - Victoria Unit, Oldham Integrated Care Organisation

Rochdale - Rochdale Infirmary

Programmed investigations unit (PIU), home IV team

Tameside - Macmillan Unit, Tameside Hospital

Trafford - Trafford Hospital Day Unit

West Lancashire - Ormskirk Hospital

Wigan - Walk-in centre, Leigh Infirmary

The adjuvant bisphosphonate service

Nadia Ali, adjuvant bisphosphonate pharmacist

Christina Haigh, adjuvant bisphosphonate service co-ordinator

Tel: **07824 408899**

Adjuvant Bisphosphonate Service email: chn-tr.abs.christie@nhs.net

The Adjuvant Bisphosphonate Service

Pharmacy Department

The Christie Foundation Trust

Wilmslow Road

Manchester M20 4BX

Additional support and contact numbers that you may find useful

Maggie's centres

The centres provide a full programme of practical and emotional support, including psychological support, benefits advice, nutrition and head care workshops, relaxation and stress management.

Maggie's Manchester

Call: **0161 641 4848** or email: manchester@maggiescentres.org

Maggie's Oldham

Call: **0161 989 0550** or email: oldham@maggiescentres.org

Breast Cancer Care

Freephone: **08080 800 6000** or visit: www.breastcancercare.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support

Freephone: **08080 808 0000** or visit: www.macmillan.org.uk

Breast Cancer Now

Tel: **0207 405 5111** or visit: www.breastcancer.org.uk