

**GUIDELINES OF STEROID USE IN PATIENTS WITH  
METASTATIC SPINAL CORD COMPRESSION (MSCC)**

**THE CHRISTIE, GREATER MANCHESTER & CHESHIRE**

Procedure Reference:		Version:	V05
Document Owner:	MSCC Coordinator	Accountable Committee:	CSSS quality & governance committee
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Target audience:	All Clinicians		



## STEROID USE IN PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC SPINAL CORD COMPRESSION (MSCC)

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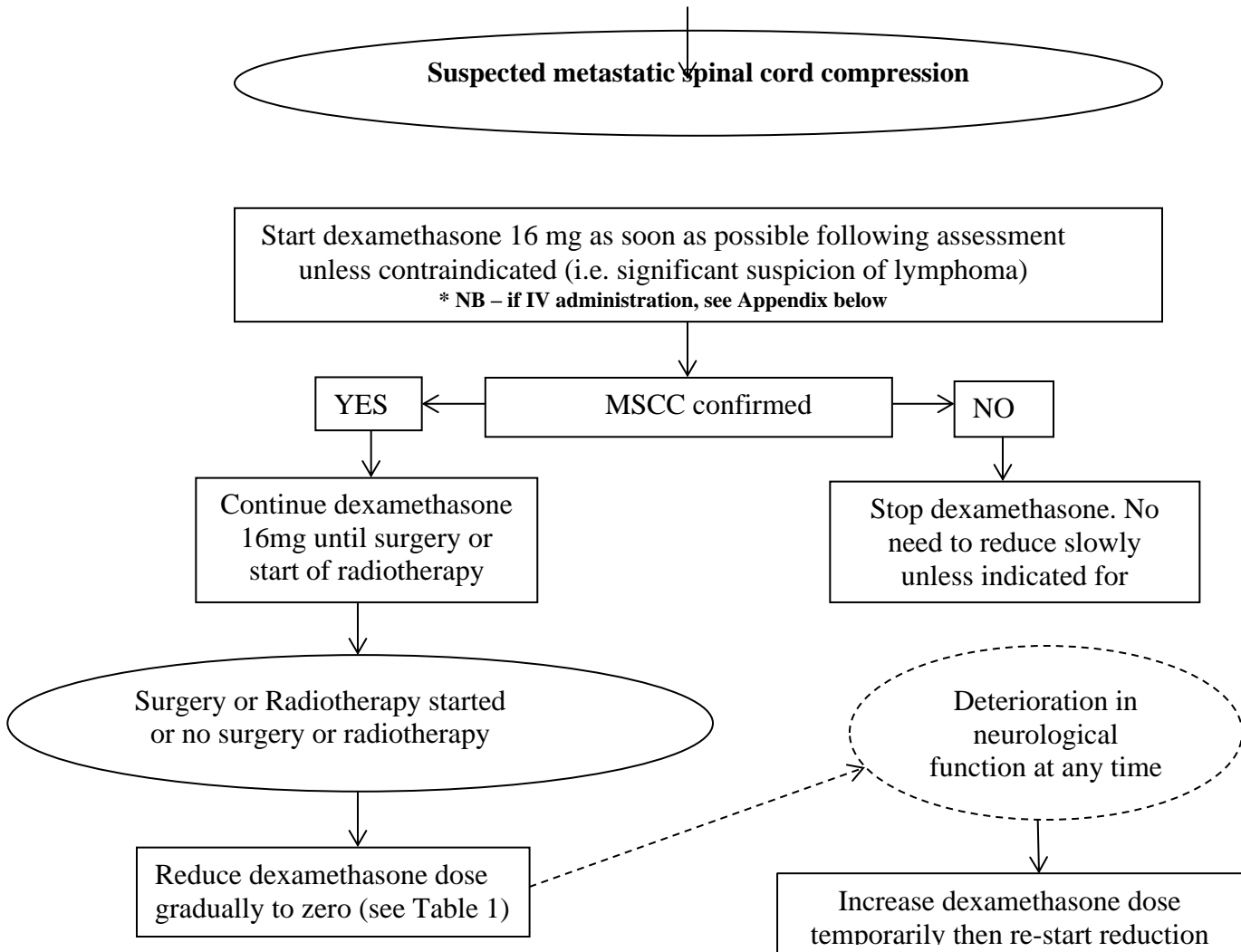


Table 1 – Steroid reducing table for MSCC

Day	Dexamethasone daily oral dose (milligram = mg)	Administration
Day 1-4 (4 days)	16mg	8mg B.D*/16mg O.D**
Day 5-8 (4 days)	12mg	6mg B.D*/12mg O.D**
Day 9-12 (4 days)	8mg	8mg O.D**
Day 13-16 (4 days)	4mg	4mg O.D**
Day 17-20 (4 days)	2mg	2mg O.D**
*B.D. = Twice Daily (8am & 2pm)      **O.D. = Once Daily (8am)		

Table 2 - Good Prescribing Practice for Corticosteroids

1	Document indication for the corticosteroid on the patient's kardex
2	Indicate length of steroid course required on kardex and in notes
3	Start prophylaxis with PPI when giving high dose corticosteroids. Ensure this is stopped with steroids if no ongoing GI symptoms.
4	Ensure appropriate patient information regarding corticosteroids and dose reduction regimen on discharge. Counsel if necessary.
5	Monitor all patients on high dose steroids for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes – see Appendix below</li> <li>• Dyspepsia/ epigastric pain</li> <li>• Mania/hypomania/psychosis</li> </ul>



(This document is based on material produced by the Edinburgh Cancer Centre)

## Appendix

- Plasma glucose must be checked on all patients commencing steroids. Capillary blood glucose testing (CBG) must continue whilst the patient is taking steroids and are an in-patient. CBG testing must continue if patient is discharged if CBG has been elevated as an in-patient. Please refer to local trusts Steroid and CBG monitoring guidance for further information.
- The information below reflects the use of Dexamethasone Injections 4mg in 1ml at The Christie:

There are currently 3 preparations of dexamethasone injection on the UK market. The Organon product (used at The Christie) has been reformulated resulting in changes to its concentration, storage conditions and presentation. In addition the marketing authorisation for the Organon product has now been transferred to Aspen.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 there will be no new production of the 4mg/ml product. Therefore when stocks of this are exhausted the only available preparations of Dexamethasone injection will be those made by Aspen and Hameln/Hospira.

	Aspen	Hameln	Hospira
Dexamethasone base (on packaging)	3.8mg/mL	3.3mg/mL	
Volume equivalence of 4mg base	1.05mL ( <b>only 1ml of will be available in each glass vial*</b> )	1.2mL( <b>only 1ml will be available in each glass ampoule *</b> )	
Dexamethasone sodium phosphate	5.0mg/mL	4.3 mg/mL	
Dexamethasone phosphate	Not stated	4.0mg/mL	
Propylene glycol content	None	20mg/mL <sup>6</sup>	None
Storage	Store in a refrigerator (2-8°C)	Store below 25°C	
Presentation	Glass vial	Glass ampoule	

Following discussion at the Safe Medicines Practice Committee and the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, we are recommending the following:

- We will procure the Aspen branded product. 3.8mg/ml
- For doses of 4mg Dexamethasone it is acceptable to substitute a dose of 3.8mg.
- For doses of 8mg Dexamethasone it is acceptable to substitute a dose 7.6mg.
- For doses of 16mg and above no dose adjustment will be made.



**\*For more information and protocols on management of MSCC see:**  
<http://www.christie.nhs.uk/MSCC>

### **CONSULTATION, APPROVAL & RATIFICATION PROCESS**

All documents must be involved in a consultation process either locally within a department or division or throughout the trust at relevant board/committee meetings before being submitted for approval.



## VERSION CONTROL SHEET

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment
V1	Jan 2010	Edinburgh Cancer Centre	Creation	
V2	Nov 2013	Vivek Misra Lena Richards	Update Review	Updated document Reviewed content
V2.1	May 2015 Jan 2016	Lena Richards Vivek Misra	Update Review	Updated content Reviewed content
V3	Oct 2016	Lena Richards Vivek Misra Louise Hopewell Nadia Ali	Update Review Review Review	Appendix added
V4	Jan 2018	Conor Fitzpatrick	Review	No changes made
V05	Dec 2024	Claire Shanahan, MSCC Coordinator		Full review. Change of owner and accountable committee. Minor formatting amends.

