

# **Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone, And Cisplatin (GDP) Versus Dexamethasone, Cytarabine, And Cisplatin (DHAP) As Salvage Chemotherapy For Patients With Relapsed Or Refractory Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

Thesis

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**العلاج الكيميائي الهمسيتابين  
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# Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Contents	<b>I</b>
List of abbreviations	<b>II</b>
List of figures	<b>V</b>
List of tables	<b>VIII</b>
Introduction and Aim of the work	<b>1</b>
Review of the literature	
1. Epidemiology and risk factors.	<b>5</b>
2. Pathological classification.	<b>17</b>
3. Diagnosis.	<b>42</b>
4. Staging and prognosis.	<b>52</b>
5. Treatment.	<b>66</b>
6. Relapsed DLBCL	<b>86</b>
7. Novel Therapies for DLBCL.	<b>103</b>
Materials and methods	<b>108</b>
Results	<b>124</b>
Discussion	<b>172</b>
Summary and conclusion	<b>184</b>
References	<b>188</b>

## List of abbreviations

ABC	Activated B Cell
ADL	Activities of daily living
AIDS	The acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ALK1	Anaplastic lymphoma kinase gene
ASCT	Autologous Stem cell transplantation
ATLL	Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma
BC	British Columbia
Bcl	B-cell lymphoma 2
BCR	B-cell receptor
BSA	Body surface area
CD	Cluster of differentiation
CNS	Central nervous system
CORAL	Collaborative Trial in Relapsed Aggressive Lymphoma
CR	Complete response
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CT	Computed tomography
DLBCL	Diffuse large B cell lymphoma
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EBV	Epstein–Barr virus
ECOG	Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group
EFS	Event-free survival
FDG	18F-deoxyglucose
FFS	Failure-free survival
FISH	<u>Fluorescence in situ hybridization</u>
FNA	Fine needle aspiration
GCB	Germinal center B Cell
GE/TAMO	Grupo Español de Linfomas/ Trasplante Autólogo de Médula ósea'
GELA	Groupe d'Etude des Lymphomes de l'Adulte
GEP	Gene expression profiling

GLSG	German Lymphoma Study Group
GY	Gray
HAART	Highly active antiretroviral therapy
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HDT & SCT	high-dose therapy & Stem cell transplantation
HHV-8	Human herpes virus 8
HOVON	Hemato-Oncologie voor Volwassenden Nederland
HTLV-1	Human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IFRT	Involved-field RT
Ig	Immunoglobulin
IPI	International Prognostic Index
IVLBL	Intravascular Large B Cell Lymphoma
IWG	International Working Group
KSHV	Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes virus
LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
MALT	Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MCL	Mantle cell lymphoma
MINT	Mabthera International Trial
MRI	Magnetic resonant imaging
MSKCC	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
MZLs	Marginal zone lymphomas
NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
NCI-CTC	Common Toxicity Criteria of the National Cancer Institute
NHLs	Non Hodgkin lymphomas
NOS	Not otherwise specified

NPM	Nucleophosmin gene
OS	Overall survival
PD	Progressive disease
PEL	Primary effusion lymphoma
PET	Positron emission tomography
PFS	Progression-free survival
PKC $\beta$	Protein kinase C beta
PMBL	Primary Mediastinal Large B-Cell Lymphoma
PR	Partial remission
REAL	Revised European-American Lymphoma
RT	Radiation therapy
R-IPI	Revised IPI
SaaIPI	Secondary age-adjusted IPI
SD	Stable disease
SEER	Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results
SUV	Standard uptake values
SWOG	Southwest Oncology Group
Syk	Spleen tyrosine kinase
TTF	Time to treatment failure
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
ULN	Upper limit of normal
WHO	World Health Organization

## List of figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Figure 1	Incidence and mortality of NHL in different geographic areas	
Figure 2	Frequency of NHL subtypes.	
Figure 3	Microscopic image of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	
Figure 4	Morphologic variants of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. A, Centroblastic. B, Immunoblastic. C, Anaplastic. D, Plasmablastic	
Figure 5	diffuse proliferation associated with a "starry sky"	
Figure 6	PET/CT fusion images of splenic mass	
Figure 7	PET/CT fusion images of anterior mediastinal mass	
Figure 8	FDG PET scan of a case of NHL of the left breast, left inguinal area, bilateral axillary regions.	
Figure 9	A microscopic picture of bone marrow biopsy reveals a peritrabecular infiltrate of small blue cells which is the lymphomatous infiltrate.	
Figure 10	Comparison of overall survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Figure 11	Comparison of overall survival according to age group among GDP group	
Figure 12	Comparison of overall survival according to LDH level among GDP group.	
Figure 14	Comparison of overall survival according to LDH level among DHAP group.	
Figure 15	Comparison of overall survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	

Figure 16	Comparison of overall survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Figure 17	Comparison of overall survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Figure 18	Comparison of overall survival according to IPI among DHAP group.	
Figure 19	Comparison of overall survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among GDP group	
Figure 20	comparison of overall survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	
Figure 21	comparison of overall survival according to Response after 6 cycles among GDP group	
Figure 22	Comparison of overall survival according to Response after 6 cycles among DHAP group	
Figure 23.	Comparison of disease free survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Figure 24	Comparison of disease free survival according to LDH level among GDP group	
Figure 25	Comparison of disease free survival according to LDH level among DHAP group	
Figure 26	Comparison of disease free survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	
Figure 27	comparison of disease free survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Figure 28	Comparison of disease free survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Figure 29	Comparison of disease free survival according to IPI among DHAP group	
Figure 30	Comparison of disease free survival according to patients' Stage at	



	relapse among GDP group	
Figure 31	Comparison of disease free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	
Figure 32	Comparison of progression free survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Figure 33	Comparison of progression free survival according to LDH level among GDP group	
Figure 34	Comparison of progression free survival according to LDH level among DHAP group	
Figure 35	Comparison of progression free survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	
Figure 36	Comparison of progression free survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Figure 37	Comparison of progression free survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Figure 38	Comparison of progression free survival according to IPI among DHAP group	
Figure 39	Comparison of progression free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among GDP group	
Figure 40	Comparison of progression free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	

## List of tables

Table No	Title	Page
Table 1	The annual incidence rates of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma/100,000 mid-year population by age and sex during the period (1995-2004), Alexandria, Egypt.	
Table 2	The Revised European American Lymphoma Classification (REAL)	
Table 3	WHO Classification of Lymphoid Neoplasms	
Table 4	WHO 2008: the mature B-cell neoplasms.	
Table 5	WHO 2008: the mature T-cell and NK-cell neoplasms	
Table 6	Genetic. Molecular and clinical Characteristics of DLBCL molecular variants recognized by expression profile.	
Table 7	World Health Organization Classification of the Mature Large B-cell Neoplasms	
Table 8	Recommended Timing of PET (PET/CT) Scans in Lymphoma Clinical Trials	
Table 9	Ann Arbor Staging System for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	
Table 10	The Cotswald's Modification of the Ann Arbor Staging for Hodgkin's Lymphomas and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	
Table 11	International Prognostic Index with Age-Adjusted Index	
Table 12	Outcome according to International Prognostic Index (IPI) factors in 365 patients treated with R-CHOP	
Table 13	Response Criteria for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	
Table 14	Response Definitions for Clinical Trials	
Table 15	Chemotherapy versus Combined Modality Therapy for Stage I/II Intermediate- or High-Grade Lymphoma: Prospective Randomized Trials.	
Table 16	Comparison of CHOP 21 versus alternative chemotherapy regimens (MACOP-B, MBACOD, ProMACE-CytaBOM, PACEBOM) for first-line treatment.	
Table 17	Commonly Used Salvage Regimens for the Aggressive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	
Table 18	Gemcitabine for the Treatment of Lymphoma.	

Table 19	ECOG PERFORMANCE STATUS	
Table 20	NCI-CTC- Version 2	
Table 21	Dose modifications for gemcitabine, cytarabine and cisplatin according to Platelet and absolute neutrophil counts (% of Dose to be given)	
Table 22	Cisplatin dose modification for Renal impairment.	
Table 23	Description and comparison of Patient characteristics and Prognostic factors between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 24	Description and comparison between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 25	Comparison between cases according to responses at end of GDP therapy as regard Patient characteristics	
Table 26	Comparison between cases according to responses at end of DHAP therapy as regard Patient characteristics	
Table 27	Comparison between cases according to responses at end of GDP therapy as regard Prognostic data	
Table 28	Comparison between cases according to responses at end of DHAP therapy as regard Prognostic data	
Table 29	Description and comparison of overall survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 30	Description and comparison of overall survival according to age group among GDP group.	
Table 31	Description and comparison of overall survival according to age group among DHAP group	
Table 32	Description and comparison of overall survival according to LDH level among GDP group.	
Table 33	Description and comparison of overall survival according to LDH level among DHAP group	
Table 34	Description and comparison of overall survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	
Table 35	Description and comparison of overall survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Table 36	Description and comparison of overall survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Table 37	Description and comparison of overall survival according to IPI among DHAP group	
Table 38	Description and comparison of overall survival	

	according to patients' Stage at relapse among GDP group	
Table 39	Description and comparison of overall survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	
Table 40	Description and comparison of overall survival according to Response after 6 cycles among GDP group	
Table 41	Description and comparison of overall survival according to Response after 6 cycles among DHAP group	
Table 42	Description and comparison of disease free survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 43	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to LDH level among GDP group	
Table 44	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to LDH level among DHAP group	
Table 45	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	
Table 46	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Table 47	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Table 48	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to IPI among DHAP group	
Table 49	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among GDP group	
Table 50	Description and comparison of disease free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	
Table 51	Description and comparison of progression free survival between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 52	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to LDH level among GDP group	
Table 53	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to LDH level among DHAP group	

Table 54	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to B symptoms among GDP group	
Table 55	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to B symptoms among DHAP group	
Table 56	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to IPI among GDP group	
Table 57	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to IPI among DHAP group	
Table 58	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among GDP group	
Table 59	Description and comparison of progression free survival according to patients' Stage at relapse among DHAP group	
Table 60	Description and comparison of Hematologic toxicities between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	
Table 61	Description and comparison of the non hematological toxicities between GDP and DHAP treatment groups	

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## Introduction

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is the seventh most common cancer and is the ninth most common cause of cancer death in males and the sixth in females and it is the second fastest rising cancer in incidence and death rates in the United States (US). It is estimated that 65,980 men and women (35,990 men and 29,990 women) will be diagnosed and 19,500 men and women will die of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2009. The age-adjusted incidence rate was 19.5 per 100,000 per year and the age-adjusted death rate was 7.1 per 100,000 per year (*Horner et al, 2009*).

It is interesting to note the high rates of NHL in Egyptians. The age-adjusted incidence rate for lymphoma among Egyptians was 16.3 per 100.000. This rate exceeded the US Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) incidence rate 15.3 per 100.000, considered one of the highest in the world (*Freedman et al, 2006*). Several studies have reported the possible role of infectious agents in the etiology of NHL. *Cowgill et al, (2004)* reported in an Egyptian case-control study a statistically significant association of HCV RNA with NHL.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL) are a heterogeneous group of lymphoid malignancies that differ greatly in clinical presentation, prognosis, and response to therapy. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is the most common histological subtype of NHL, accounting for approximately 30–45% of all cases (*Bruce et al., 2008*).

Combination chemotherapy is the mainstay of treatment for patients with DLBCL. The realistic goal of induction therapy

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for DLBCL is to cure the disease. In fact, almost half of the patients with DLBCL may be cured with conventional therapy. The most widely used combination for the treatment of DLBCL has been CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone). For patients with advanced DLBCL, this combination produces an approximate 50% to 60% Complete Response (CR) rate. Results are significantly improved by the addition of the anti-CD antibody rituximab, so that R-CHOP has rapidly become the new standard (*Pfreundschuh et al, 2006*).

Studies of stem cell transplantation (SCT) have been carried out in many varieties of NHL but primarily in DLBCL. The most widely accepted use of Stem Cell Transplantation/High-Dose Chemotherapy (HDC) is in the treatment of patients with DLBCL who have relapsed following initial CHOP or R-CHOP chemotherapy (*Philip et al, 1995*).

Only about 1/3 of patients who achieve complete response go on to relapse. Relapse of DLBCL, if it occurs, will usually take place within the first 2 years after achieving remission. If the patient is still able to tolerate aggressive therapy, salvage chemotherapy is employed. At present, there is no standard salvage chemotherapy. Common regimens include ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin and etoposide), DHAP (dexamethasone, cytarabine and cisplatin) and ESHAP (etoposide, methylprednisolone, cytarabine and cisplatin) (*Bruce et al, 2008*).

Gemcitabine has been shown to have clinical activity against several tumors, including lymphomas. Preclinical studies of gemcitabine and cisplatin have demonstrated synergy

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