

PCV

Sometimes a combination of procarbazine, lomustine and vincristine are administered (also known as PCV).

The type of drug determines how it is administered. "Systemic delivery" drugs, which pass to the brain from the bloodstream, may be given by mouth, injected into a vein through an IV, or injected into an artery or a muscle. "Local delivery" drugs are placed within or around the brain tumour.

The chemotherapy and the rest period is called a cycle of treatment. The length of a cycle depends on the chemotherapy drugs you are taking. Most cycles are 4 to 6 weeks long. Your doctor or nurse will explain what to expect.

Newer delivery methods to overcome some of the problems of passing through the blood-brain barrier include:

- *Interstitial chemotherapy* uses disc-shaped polymer wafers (known as Gliadel wafers) soaked with carmustine, the standard chemotherapeutic drug for brain cancer. The surgeon implants the wafer directly into the surgical cavity after a tumour is removed.
- *Intrathecal chemotherapy* delivers chemotherapeutic drugs directly into the spinal fluid.
- *Intra-arterial chemotherapy* delivers high-dose chemotherapy into arteries in the brain using tiny catheters.
- *Convection-enhanced delivery (CED)* involves placing catheters into the brain tumour or nearby brain tissue to deliver slowly and continuously a cancer drug over several days.