



ECP-Extracorporeal Photopheresis

Welcome to photopheresis at CHIPSA Medical Center and Gerson Hospital.

We hope that your stay with us will be a positive and pleasant experience.

The Photopheresis Unit at CHIPSA was recently established Autumn 2005 and has since been a Photopheresis Therapy and Research entity participating in numerous clinical research programs and working in close collaboration with researchers in this particular immunotherapy and immunosuppression protocol.

This information will introduce you to the treatment and the practical aspects of our policies and procedures.

The following is covered:

Treatment Procedure

Drug Information
Medical Apheresis Protocol
Additional Therapy
Prescriptions and Tests
Supportive Services

Precautions
Scheduling

Transportation, Lodging and Directions
Billing Procedures

Contact Information

The Treatment Procedure

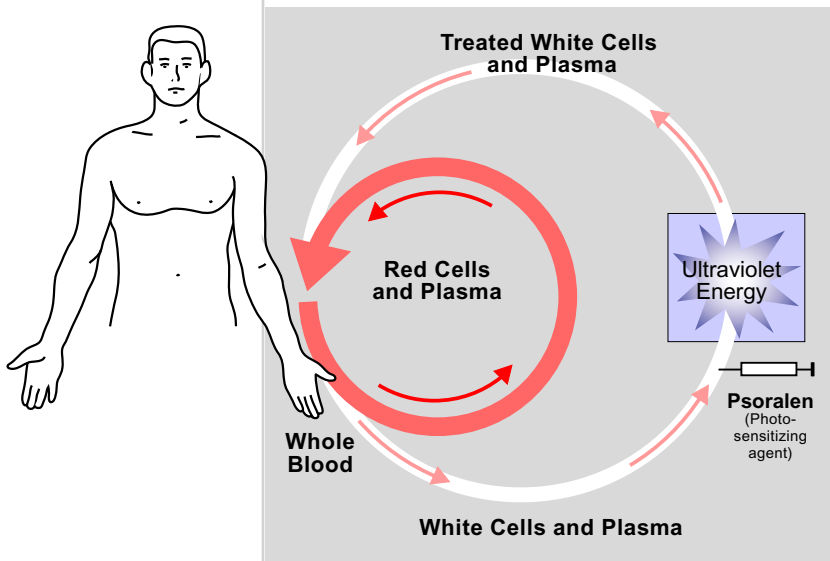
The **Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP)** treatment is given on consecutive days. Therefore, plan to be here on two consecutive days every treatment cycle. The treatments are given in the morning starting at 8:30 a.m. or in the afternoon starting at 12:30 p.m. The entire treatment itself takes 2.5 to 3.5 hours, but additional time is needed for medical examination and consultation with your physician. Please arrive early with plenty of time to spare. It is very important for the procedure to start on time!

During the treatment you will be resting comfortably in a reclining chair. Your blood pressure, pulse and temperature will be measured. A needle is placed in an arm vein so that blood from your bloodstream can flow into a specifically designed instrument and be

separated into red blood cells, white blood cells and plasma. Before we place the needle, a small amount of local anesthetic will be injected under the skin to prevent discomfort and irritation.

The red blood cells and most of the plasma will be transfused back into your circulation during the procedure.

The white blood cells and a portion of your plasma (containing the drug Psoralen that is added) will be exposed to ultraviolet (UV) light in the Photopheresis Machine for several hours before being returned to your blood stream.



It is believed that the ultraviolet light and Psoralen change the white blood cell in such a way that, when returned to your blood stream it may improved your disease.

The drug Psoralen used to be administered as capsules by mouth but in 1999 a liquid form became available that can be injected directly into the Photopheresis instrument.

There are benefits to using the liquid form for Psoralen. It does not have the side effects of the oral version that often could lead to nausea and vomiting and the dose is so small that your body is exposed to very little of the drug.

During the procedure you will be resting comfortably in a reclining chair. A television set is provided but you can also read, talk with your nurse or visit with a family member that will be allowed in the treatment room providing it is convenient to the staff.

Drug Information

The drug Psoralen (UVADEX) will be added to the photopheresis instrument in the beginning of the treatment. We will provide the Uvadex and the cost of the drug will be billed to your medical treatment and CHIPSA bill.

Supportive Services

If needed, you shall have access to social and pastoral services. Also our trained staff can answer your questions regarding your comfort. Ask your nurse for assistance and we will address your needs.

Medical Apheresis Protocol

At each treatment with us, you will be seen by one of the attending physicians that cover your medical condition. You will have plenty of opportunity to discuss your symptoms and treatments with the physician. Please allow extra time to meet with the physician, either prior to the treatment or after. You may want to keep a short diary and bring it with you to the unit. This will make it easier to remember any questions you may have and would like to discuss with the nurses and the physicians.

It is very important for you to maintain contact with your other physicians. Our apheresis group will primarily deal with your illness. If you have other medical problems, they should be handled by the appropriate specialist.

If you are in need of other medical specialties, we will be happy to give you a referral. If you need any data communicated to your other physicians please provide us with their name, addresses, telephone and fax numbers.

Additional Therapy

In addition to the photopheresis therapy, your physician may prescribe additional treatments that may work in combination with the photopheresis. We may also have some FDA approved experimental therapies available(clinical trials). Your physician will be happy to discuss any of these if they may be beneficial for you.

Prescriptions and Tests

We will be happy to provide prescriptions for you, but only for those medications that were originally prescribed by our physicians. If you are running short of medication, feel free to call us with a telephone number to your pharmacy, and we will call in a refill prescription. The Medical Center pharmacies located on Jardines and in the CHIPSA Building carry a large stock of all the special dermatology drugs that we commonly use.

Additional medical tests that your physician may prescribe for you can be performed at our institution or at any institution that is more convenient for you. Please let us know and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

Precautions

The drug UVADEX is very sensitive to ultraviolet (UV) light. It is therefore very important that during the first 24 hours after a treatment you protect yourself against sunlight. To prevent sunburns it is important that you cover your skin as much as possible and use a strong sun-blocking agent (a sunscreen) with a SPF of 15 or higher. The sunscreen can be purchased in your local supermarket or pharmacy without a prescription. We will provide you with a pair of UV blocking sunglasses and we do recommend that you wear these for the next 24 hours.

After the treatment, a pressure dressing will be applied to where the needle was placed in your arm. This is to prevent bleeding from the site. This dressing should be left in place for at least three hours. After it is removed, place a Band-Aid on the site, if it is needed.

During the treatment, while your blood is going through the instrument, a blood-thinning drug (heparin) is dripped into that part of your blood that is in the instrument to prevent the blood from clotting.

After the treatment some oozing may happen from the site where the needle was placed. If that happens, provide pressure on the oozing spot and it will stop shortly. It is important to remember that immediately after the treatment while your blood is still slightly thinned, DO NOT do anything that may make you bleed. If bleeding occurs, apply pressure. If it does not stop, go to the nearest emergency room. Explain the situation to them and have them contact us. Or call 911 for help.

With any procedure that involves removing blood from the blood-stream, a drop in blood pressure can occur. This can happen but it is very rare and the medical staff can easily correct the situation. Whenever a procedure involves placing a needle into a vein, bleeding, damage to veins small collections of blood in the tissue surrounding the vein causing bruising (hematoma) or infection can occur but it is uncommon.

Scheduling

As previously mentioned, the photopheresis treatments are always given on two consecutive days. Your physician will prescribe a cycle of treatments specifically for you. They can be given every two weeks, three weeks or at other intervals. As you improve, the treatment will be given at longer and longer intervals. We will provide you with a treatment schedule for a few months. It is very important that you let us know as far in advance as possible if you have any preferences. We will attempt to adjust the schedule to your preference while following the doctor's recommendations. In an emergency situation or if your appointment conflicts with other important appointments, call us as soon as possible and we will make an attempt to reschedule. If you cannot keep an appointment, call us at your earliest convenience. Our telephones are connected to 24-hour voicemail (877-424-4772).

Transportation, Lodging and Directions

When traveling to CHIPSA, we advise that you use the hospital's shuttle service for transport into Mexico from San Diego to the CHIPSA facilities. Please contact Patient Services at 877-424-4772 and request for our CHIPSA Shuttle Service. We provide a "courtesy shuttle" for your visit with all who visit us.

There are several hotels in the area that provides a discount for CHIPSA Hospital patient and we will be happy to provide access. Our hospital also provides lodging for a token fee if room is available. The CHIPSA Medical Center provides co-companion room rate for a patient's friend or visting spouse. Remember to let us know if or when you make a hotel for a relative if you intend to bring along a friend. We will be happy to assist you in finding a lodging nearby or make a reservation at a local hotel.

We are comitted to assisting your medical treatment at CHIPSA Hospital by arranging transportation needs from the San Diego community area to our hospital facilities.

- Please attempt to arrange to arrive on a weekday, if possible.
- Book your flight to the San Diego's Lindbergh International Airport (call for assistance)
- Upon your arrival, proceed to the Traveler Aid Desk near your baggage claim area.
- A driver will meet you with a CHIPSA sign at the Lindbergh Airport's Traveler Aid Desk.
- Let us know if a wheel chair, oxygen or other special care circumstances are needed.

Billing Procedures

After the Gerson therapy treatments, you will receive several charges, yet one bill.

A comprehensive bill from CHIPSA will also cover the charges for the actual treatments and laboratory tests, diagnostics, and all extra required proceedures. A charge for the physician fees will come from the CHIPSA Hospital as seperate line item.

It is important that prior to your first treatment, you speak with the Patient Service representative in the CHIPSA office located inside the entrance to the hospital in Baja California, Mexico to understand your costs and to sign-off on our HIPAA privacy policy.

CHIPSA will evaluate your medical (insurance) coverage and assist you in obtaining pre-treatment approvals if any are possible. However, it may be necessary for you to pay for entire treatment before the protocols begin. If pre-approval is required, please call your insurance company prior to each treatment to make sure approval has been obtained for both hospital and physician billing.

The staff in the CHIPSA office will be able to answer most of your questions. They will also be able to help you with any questions you may have about the actual bill.

Remember to bring issues to Patient Services whenever you have questions. Feel free to call us concerning the costs. We will do our best to address a payment solution.

Contact Information

Feel free to call Patient Services at our main office number: **(877) 424-4772**

The Photopheresis Department is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 until 4 PM.

We will always be closed on holidays and every weekend.

Our phones are connected to voicemail that will answer phones if we are not available. Please leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Photopheresis Unit:

CHIPSA

Gerson Medical Center

670 Colonia Jardines del Sol
Playas Tijuana, Mexico, C.P. 22700

CHIPSA US-Mail

PO Box 1850, Chula Vista, CA 91912

patientservices@chipsa.com

infoservices@chipsa.com

admissions@chipsa.com

<http://www.chipsa.com/ecp.html>

CHIPSA Hospital: **011-52 (664) 680-2902**

CHIPSA FAX: **011-52 (664) 680-2908**

Patient Services: **(877) 424-4772**

Information Services: (800) 759-2966

Dr. Lopez, MD, Medical Director

Dr. Raul Morales, MD, Director of Photopheresis

Gar Hildenbrand, EPD, Epidemiologist

FOR ANY LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN,
GO TO YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY ROOM OR CALL 911.

If you need to contact us in an emergency, call the main hospital number at (877) 424-4772 and ask for the Patient Services. Explain to the representative that you have an emergency and ask to have the Resident on-call paged or called.

Patient Checklist

Medical Records: (If not available, do not delay arrival. CHIPSA will send for records)

- Pathology reports
- Current lab test results
- Surgical summary
- Discharge summaries
- Any radiology reports and the films (X-ray, CT, MRI) if possible.

Acceptable Mail Addresses for correspondence, official documents or medical records:

CHIPSA / Gerson Hospital
670 Colonia Jardines Del Sol
Playas Tijuana, Baja California
Mexico C.P. 22700

CHIPSA Patient Services
627 H Street, Suite A90
Chula Vista, California
USA 91910

CHIPSA USPO Box
PO Box 1850
Chula Vista, California
USA 91912

Supplies of your current prescription medications and medical supplies. Some medications (e.g.: pain killers, especially morphine and Demerol) and supplies (e.g.: colostomy fittings) are not internationally standard. Colostomy patients, please bring colostomy sleeves for irrigation. Please, also bring any of the following for you stay:

- Cassette or CD recorder, fresh tapes, CD & batteries.
- Blank notebooks, pens and pencils.
- Envelopes and US postage stamps (if you wish)
- Clock radio or travel alarm.
- Personal articles (toilet/grooming).
- Pajamas, robe, slippers, and informal clothing for the cool evenings

Verification of identity, such as a driver-license or birth certificate document **MAY BE** required for U.S. and Canadian citizens upon entry into Mexico and re-entry into the U.S. However, identity papers are usually **NOT** required to enter Mexico, CHIPSA recommends that ID preparations should be considered however, to avoid confusion.

Medical file folder provided by CHIPSA (discuss all forms that shall be apart of arrival)

- Admission sheet-medical consent (HIPAA protocol)
- Patient health history
- Medical liability release form
- Quality of life questionnaire



CHIPSA

CENTRO HOSPITALARIO INTERNACIONAL PACIFICO, SA

Gerson Medical Center

Center of Integrative Medicine
670 Colonia Jardines del Sol, Playas Tijuana
Baja California, Mexico, C.P. 22700