

Medicine: apalutamide (brand name: Erleada[®])

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed apalutamide for the treatment of adults with hormone sensitive prostate cancer (HSPC) that is metastatic (has spread to other parts of the body). Apalutamide is used together with androgen deprivation therapy (ADT; treatment that lowers the amount of testosterone in the body). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted apalutamide for treating adults with prostate cancer as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of apalutamide.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that apalutamide for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is apalutamide used for?

Apalutamide was considered for use to treat adults with prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. Prostate cancer affects the prostate gland which makes semen (the fluid that carries sperm). Apalutamide is used alongside androgen deprivation therapy to treat patients whose prostate cancer responds to hormones (HSPC).

How does apalutamide work?

The prostate cancer cells need male hormones to grow and survive. Apalutamide blocks the actions of testosterone and other male hormones called androgens, which helps slow down the growth of the cancer.

How does SMC make its decision?

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland.

To do this SMC considers the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.

When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of apalutamide by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2472).

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with prostate cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Prostate Scotland



<https://www.prostatescotland.org.uk>



0131 603 8660

Prostate Cancer UK



<https://prostatecanceruk.org>



0800 074 8383

Tackle Prostate Cancer



<https://tackleprostate.org>



0800 035 5302

You can find out more about apalutamide (Erleada®) in the Patient Leaflet (PIL) by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>