



Medicine: dolutegravir/rilpivirine (brand name: Juluca®) for HIV

ViiV Healthcare UK Ltd

What is dolutegravir/rilpivirine used for?

Dolutegravir/rilpivirine is used to treat adults infected with the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). This virus causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). In some cases, the HIV can become resistant to certain medicines because of changes (mutations) that happen in the genetic material of the virus.

How does dolutegravir/rilpivirine work?

Dolutegravir/rilpivirine contains two different active ingredients that block different viral proteins that are important for HIV-1 multiplying inside infected cells. Dolutegravir is called an integrase inhibitor as it blocks a protein called integrase. Rilpivirine is called a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor and blocks HIV-1 reverse transcriptase. Dolutegravir/rilpivirine is for treating adults infected with HIV-1 where anti-viral medicines have kept the virus at a low level for at least 6 months and where the virus is not suspected to be resistant to non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors or integrase inhibitors.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted dolutegravir/rilpivirine for the treatment of adults infected with HIV-1 as described above.



Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

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

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- 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.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration of the evidence and after the company applied a confidential discount to the cost of the medicine, SMC was able to accept dolutegravir/rilpivirine as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that dolutegravir/rilpivirine for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



More information

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

Waverley Care



<http://www.waverleycare.org/>



0131 558 1425

HIV Scotland



<http://www.hivscotland.com/>



0131 558 3713

You can find out more about dolutegravir/rilpivirine in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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