



Medicine: dupilumab (brand name: Dupixent®) for moderate to severe atopic dermatitis

Sanofi

What is atopic dermatitis?

Atopic dermatitis (also known as atopic eczema) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease that makes the skin dry, red, itchy, sore and cracked. In moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, extremely painful, itchy and cracked skin can have a significant impact on quality of life.

How does dupilumab work?

Dupilumab is an immunosuppressant medicine that blocks the actions of interleukin 4 and interleukin 13 (IL-4 and IL-13), which are messengers in the immune system that are produced at high levels in patients with atopic dermatitis. By blocking IL-4 and IL-13, dupilumab decreases the signs and symptoms of atopic dermatitis. Dupilumab is for patients who need systemic treatment (a treatment that acts throughout the body, e.g. a medicine that is given by mouth or injection).

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted dupilumab for the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults who need systemic treatment and who have had a poor response to currently available immunosuppressant medicines (such as ciclosporin) or who cannot take them.



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, applying extra flexibility because dupilumab is a medicine for a rare condition, and after the company applied a confidential discount to the medicine, SMC was able to accept it as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that dupilumab 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 organisation below can provide more information and support for people with atopic dermatitis and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

National Eczema Society



<http://www.eczema.org>



0800 089 1122

You can find out more about dupilumab 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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