

Medicine: obinutuzumab (brand name: Gazyvaro[®]) in combination with chemotherapy for the initial treatment of advanced follicular lymphoma - resubmission

Roche Products Ltd

What is advanced follicular lymphoma?

Lymphoma is cancer of the lymphatic system (part of the body's immune system). Follicular lymphoma is a type of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. It affects a group of white blood cells called B lymphocytes, causing them to behave abnormally. In advanced follicular lymphoma the cancer is widespread across the body.

How does obinutuzumab work?

In follicular lymphoma the cancerous B lymphocytes multiply too quickly and live too long. Obinutuzumab attaches to a protein called CD20 which is on the surface of the cancerous B lymphocytes. By attaching to them it marks them as targets for the body's immune system to destroy. Obinutuzumab is used with chemotherapy at first and then used on its own as a maintenance treatment for patients who are responding.

What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended obinutuzumab for the initial treatment of patients with advanced follicular lymphoma (FL) 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, SMC decided the evidence from the company was not strong enough to be certain that obinutuzumab offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility as obinutuzumab is a medicine for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

Obinutuzumab should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about other treatment options available to you. If your healthcare professional believes that obinutuzumab would be of benefit, they can make a request to prescribe it for you. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. 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 follicular lymphoma and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Lymphoma Action



<https://lymphoma-action.org.uk/>



0808 808 5555

You can find out more about obinutuzumab 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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