

Medicine: ciclosporin eye drops (brand name: Verkazia[®]) for severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis in children and adolescents

Santen GmbH

What are ciclosporin eye drops used for?

Ciclosporin eye drops are used to treat severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC) in children aged 4 to 18. VKA is a rare allergic condition that affects the eye and causes symptoms such as blurred vision, sensitivity to light and severe itchiness. Symptoms usually occur in the spring and summer months, although in some patients it is a chronic condition and they experience symptoms all year round.

How do ciclosporin eye drops work?

Ciclosporin is an immunosuppressive medicine, which means it reduces the activity of the immune system (the body's natural defence system). It works by blocking the immune cells that cause the allergic reaction and inflammation in patients with VKC.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted ciclosporin eye drops for the treatment of severe VKC in children from 4 years of age and adolescents.



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.

After careful consideration, and applying extra flexibility because ciclosporin is a medicine for a rare condition, 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 ciclosporin eye drops for use as described above is the right medicine for you or your child, you or they 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 children with VKC and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Allergy UK



<https://www.allergyuk.org>



01322 619898

RNIB Scotland (Royal National Institute of Blind People)



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



0303 123 9999

You can find out more about ciclosporin eye drops 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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