

Medicine: pertuzumab (brand name: Perjeta®) for treatment of advanced HER2-positive breast cancer – 3rd resubmission

Roche Products Limited

What is pertuzumab used for?

Pertuzumab is used to treat HER2-positive breast cancer. This is an aggressive type of breast cancer that tests positive for a protein called human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which promotes the growth of cancer cells.

Pertuzumab was considered for use together with trastuzumab and docetaxel (other cancer medicines) for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer (cancer that has spread to other parts of the body) or when the breast cancer has come back locally after treatment and cannot be removed by surgery. It is used in patients who have not been treated yet for their metastatic disease with chemotherapy medicines or other medicines designed to target HER2.

How does pertuzumab work?

Pertuzumab attaches to the HER2-positive breast cancer cells, which stops the signals that make the cancer grow. It also helps the immune cells recognise the cancer cells and kill them.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted pertuzumab for the treatment of metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer 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, applying extra flexibility because pertuzumab is a medicine for a rare condition, and after the company applied a confidential discount to the cost of the treatment regimen, SMC was able to accept pertuzumab as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that pertuzumab 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 breast cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Breast Cancer Care Scotland



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



0808 800 6000

Breast Cancer NOW



<https://breastcancernow.org/>



0333 2070 300

You can find out more about pertuzumab 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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