



Medicine: tofacitinib (brand name: Xeljanz®) for psoriatic arthritis

Pfizer UK

What is tofacitinib used for?

In this submission tofacitinib was considered for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis. Psoriatic arthritis is an autoimmune disease that causes your immune system, which normally fights infection, to start attacking healthy cells. It is a type of arthritis that can develop in some people who have psoriasis, and causes the affected joints to become swollen, painful and stiff. It is a long-term condition and can become worse over time.

Tofacitinib is used together with another medicine called methotrexate. It is used in patients after treatment with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (medicines that stop or slow disease progression) has not worked well enough or has caused troublesome side effects.

How does tofacitinib work?

Tofacitinib works by blocking the actions of a group of proteins (called janus kinases) which are involved in causing the inflammation in psoriatic arthritis. By blocking their actions, tofacitinib reduces the inflammation and other symptoms of psoriatic arthritis.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted tofacitinib for restricted use, for the treatment of adult patients with psoriatic arthritis as described above. This acceptance is limited to use in patients who have previously not responded adequately to at least two disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.



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 tofacitinib as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

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

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Alliance (PAPAA)



<http://www.papaa.org>



01923 672837

The Psoriasis Association



<http://www.psoriasis-association.org.uk>



01604 251620

You can find out more about tofacitinib 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>

Date advice published: 14 January 2019

SMC No: (SMC2116)