



Medicine: axicabtagene ciloleucel (brand name: Yescarta®) for diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma and primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma

Kite Pharma, a Gilead Company

What is axicabtagene ciloleucel used for?

Axicabtagene ciloleucel is used to treat diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (DLBCL) and primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL). They are both types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma which is a form of blood cancer that starts in a type of white blood cell called the B lymphocyte. Axicabtagene ciloleucel is for treating patients with DLBCL or PMBCL that has stopped responding to treatment (refractory) or has come back after previous treatment (relapsed), after two or more other treatments have been tried.

How does axicabtagene ciloleucel work?

Axicabtagene ciloleucel is a new innovative type of medicine called CAR-T cell therapy. It uses the patient's own immune cells (T-cells) to destroy the cancer cells. The patient's T-cells are collected and modified in the laboratory to create CAR-T cells. These cells are then given back to the patient through a drip into the vein. The CAR-T cells bind to and kill the cancer cells.

What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended axicabtagene ciloleucel for the treatment of adults with DLBCL or PMBCL 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 axicabtagene ciloleucel offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility as axicabtagene ciloleucel is a medicine for a very rare, end of life condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

Axicabtagene ciloleucel 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 axicabtagene ciloleucel would be of benefit, he or she 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 organisations below can provide more information and support for people with lymphoma and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Bloodwise



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



0808 2080 888

Lymphoma Action



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



0808 808 5555

You can find out more about axicabtagene ciloleucel 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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