

Medicine: liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine (brand name: Vyxeos[®]) for acute myeloid leukaemia

Jazz Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd

What is liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine for?

Liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine is used for the treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). AML is a rare aggressive type of cancer of the white blood cells. It starts in the bone marrow but quickly moves into the blood. Liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine is used for patients with a new diagnosis where the AML is either caused by previous treatment with chemotherapy or radiotherapy (therapy related AML), or where there are changes in the bone marrow known as myelodysplasia (AML with myelodysplasia related changes).

How does liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine work?

Daunorubicin and cytarabine are two medicines that act in different ways to stop cancer cells from growing and dividing. Daunorubicin and cytarabine are given together contained in tiny fat droplets called liposomes which are designed to allow the medicines to remain in the patient's body for longer.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine for the treatment of adult patients with newly diagnosed, therapy related AML or AML with myelodysplasia related changes.



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 liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine is a medicine for a very rare, end of life condition, and after the company applied a confidential discount to the cost of the medicine, 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 liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine 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 AML and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Bloodwise

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

 0808 2080 888

Leukaemia CARE

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

 0808 8010 444

You can find out more about liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine 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: 11 March 2019

SMC No: (SMC2130)