

# Medicine: lenvatinib (brand name: Lenvima<sup>®</sup>) for hepatocellular carcinoma

Eisai Limited

## What is lenvatinib for?

Lenvatinib is used to treat a rare type of cancer of the liver called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Lenvatinib was considered for use in patients with HCC that cannot be removed by surgery (unresectable) or has spread to other parts of the body (advanced). It is used for patients who have not already been treated with another systemic anti-cancer medicine (a medicine that is given by mouth or injection that acts throughout the body).

## How does lenvatinib work?

Lenvatinib is a medicine called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. It works by blocking the activity of proteins called receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs). RTKs are involved in cancer cell growth and in the development of new blood vessels that supply cancer cells with nutrients and oxygen. By blocking these proteins, lenvatinib can help slow the growth and spread of the cancer.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted lenvatinib for the treatment of adults with HCC 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 lenvatinib is a medicine for a 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 lenvatinib 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](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with liver cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

#### British Liver Trust



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



0800 652 7330

#### Hepatitis Scotland



<http://www.hepatitisscotland.org.uk/>



0800 22 44 88

You can find out more about lenvatinib 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:** 8 April 2019

**SMC No:** (SMC2138)