



Medicine: cariprazine (brand name: Reagila®) for schizophrenia

Recordati Pharmaceuticals Ltd

What is cariprazine for?

Cariprazine is used to treat adults with schizophrenia, which is a severe long-term mental health condition. The symptoms of schizophrenia are categorised as positive or negative. Positive symptoms are thoughts and behaviours that the person did not have before they became ill (such as hallucinations). Negative symptoms are thoughts and behaviours that the person has lost since they became ill. These symptoms include emotional withdrawal and an inability to feel pleasure.

How does cariprazine work?

Dopamine and serotonin are chemicals that transmit signals in the brain and raised levels of these chemicals are partly the cause of schizophrenia. Cariprazine is a type of medicine called a second generation anti-psychotic. It acts in the brain to help rebalance dopamine and serotonin levels to improve thinking, mood and behaviour.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted cariprazine for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults as described above. This acceptance is restricted to use in patients who have mainly negative symptoms after initial treatment has not worked.



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.

After careful consideration of the evidence, SMC was able to accept cariprazine as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that cariprazine 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

You can find out more about cariprazine 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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