



Medicine: durvalumab (brand name: Imfinzi®) for treating advanced non-small cell lung cancer

AstraZeneca UK Limited

What is durvalumab for?

Durvalumab is used to treat patients with a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Durvalumab is used when the cancer is locally advanced (spread near where it started) and cannot be removed by surgery. It is used in patients whose disease has not got worse on a treatment called platinum-based chemoradiation (platinum chemotherapy and radiotherapy given together) and where 1% or more of the cancer cells have a protein called programmed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1) on their surface.

How does durvalumab work?

Durvalumab is an immunotherapy. This is a type of cancer treatment that stimulates the immune system (the body's natural defence system) to fight the cancer. Some cancer cells produce a protein (called PD-L1) that can switch off certain immune cells (T-cells). Durvalumab attaches to PD-L1, which prevents it from switching off the T-cells and helps the immune system fight the cancer.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted durvalumab for the treatment of advanced NSCLC 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 durvalumab 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 durvalumab 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 lung cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation



<https://www.roycastle.org/>



0333 323 7200

The Scottish Lung Cancer Nurses Forum



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



01675 477607

You can find out more about durvalumab 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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