



Medicine: benralizumab (brand name: Fasenra®) for severe eosinophilic asthma

AstraZeneca UK Limited

What is benralizumab for?

Benralizumab is used to treat a type of asthma called eosinophilic asthma. In this type of asthma there are high levels of a type of white blood cell called eosinophils, which can cause inflammation in the airways leading to asthma attacks that are often severe. Benralizumab is used as an add-on treatment in adult patients with severe eosinophilic asthma that has not been controlled by high doses of an inhaled medicine called a corticosteroid, together with another type of inhaled medicine called a long-acting β -agonist.

How does benralizumab work?

Benralizumab is a type of medicine called a monoclonal antibody. It binds to a protein on the surface of eosinophils called the interleukin-5 receptor. By binding to this receptor, benralizumab activates the patient's immune system to destroy the eosinophils, reducing the inflammation in the airways and asthma attacks.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted benralizumab for the treatment of adults with severe eosinophilic asthma as described above. This acceptance is restricted to use in patients with severe eosinophilic asthma, who have eosinophils in their blood at or above a certain level (150 or more cells per microlitre) and who:

- have had 4 or more severe asthma attacks in the past year that needed treatment with systemic corticosteroids (corticosteroids given by mouth or injection), or
- have needed treatment with continuous oral corticosteroids (corticosteroids given by mouth) over the previous 6 months.



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 of the evidence and after the company applied a confidential discount to the cost of the medicine, SMC was able to accept benralizumab as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that benralizumab 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 organisation below can provide more information and support for people with asthma and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Asthma UK



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



0300 222 5800

You can find out more about benralizumab 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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