



Medicine: daratumumab (brand name: Darzalex®) for multiple myeloma

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

What is daratumumab for?

Daratumumab is used to treat multiple myeloma. Multiple myeloma is a cancer of plasma cells (a type of blood cell) in the bone marrow. Plasma cells make antibodies which help to fight infection. In multiple myeloma the body makes large numbers of abnormal plasma cells. Daratumumab is used together with other medicines for multiple myeloma (such as lenalidomide, bortezomib and dexamethasone) to treat adult patients who have already received at least one other treatment for the disease.

How does daratumumab work?

Daratumumab is a type of medicine called a monoclonal antibody. It binds to a protein called CD38 which is on the surface of myeloma cells. By binding to CD38 daratumumab activates the patient's immune system to destroy the myeloma cells.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted daratumumab for the treatment of adults with multiple myeloma as described above.

This acceptance is restricted to using daratumumab in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone, for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who have received one prior therapy only.



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 daratumumab is a medicine for a rare 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 daratumumab 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 multiple myeloma and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Myeloma UK



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



0800 980 3332

You can find out more about daratumumab 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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