



# Medicine: dacomitinib (brand name: Vizimpro®) for advanced non-small cell lung cancer that is epidermal growth factor receptor positive

Pfizer Ltd

## What is dacomitinib for?

Dacomitinib is used to treat a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It is for patients who have cancer cells with a mutation (genetic change) that affects the gene responsible for making a protein called the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). Cancer cells with this kind of mutation are described as EGFR positive. Only around 10% of patients with NSCLC have cancer cells with this kind of mutation. Dacomitinib is used for the initial treatment of these patients with advanced NSCLC (where the cancer has spread outside the lung to other parts of the body).

## How does dacomitinib work?

In patients with EGFR positive NSCLC, the EGFR gene makes a faulty EGFR protein, which drives the growth of cancer cells. Dacomitinib is an example of a targeted therapy for lung cancer. It works by binding to the EGFR protein which blocks the processes that result in the growth and spread of cancer cells.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted dacomitinib for the treatment of adult patients with 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 dacomitinib 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 dacomitinib as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

### What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that dacomitinib 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 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

#### Scottish Lung Cancer Nurses Forum



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



01675 477607

You can find out more about dacomitinib 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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