



Medicine: ospemifene (brand name: Senshio®) for vulvar and vaginal atrophy in post- menopausal women

Shionogi Ltd

What is ospemifene for?

Ospemifene is used to treat vulvar and vaginal atrophy in women who have been through the menopause. It is used to treat moderate to severe symptoms in and around the vagina that include: dryness, itching and pain and burning during sexual intercourse. Ospemifene is used to treat women who are not suitable for local vaginal oestrogen therapy (vaginal creams or pessaries that contain the female hormone oestrogen).

How does ospemifene work?

Ospemifene mimics the effects of the female hormone oestrogen. When women go through the menopause the levels of oestrogen fall. By mimicking the effects of oestrogen on vaginal tissue, ospemifene helps to alleviate the symptoms of vulvar and vaginal atrophy.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted ospemifene for the treatment of vulvar and vaginal atrophy 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 of the evidence, SMC was able to accept ospemifene as a treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that ospemifene 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 menopausal women and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

British Menopause Society/Women's Health Concern



<https://thebms.org.uk/>



01628 890199



<https://www.womens-health-concern.org/>

Menopause Support



<https://menopausesupport.co.uk/>

You can find out more about ospemifene 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>

Date advice published: 9 September 2019

SMC No: (SMC2170)