



# Medicine: pertuzumab (brand name: Perjeta®) for early stage HER2-positive breast cancer at high risk of recurrence

Roche Products Limited

## What is pertuzumab used for?

Pertuzumab is used to treat HER2-positive breast cancer. This is an aggressive type of breast cancer that tests positive for a protein, called human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). HER2 promotes the growth of cancer cells. Pertuzumab was considered for use as adjuvant treatment (treatment given after surgery). It is used together with chemotherapy and another medicine called trastuzumab, in patients whose breast cancer is at an early stage but has a high chance of coming back.

## How does pertuzumab work?

Pertuzumab attaches to the HER2-positive breast cancer cells, which blocks the signals that make the cancer grow. It also helps the body's own immune cells recognise the cancer cells and kill them.

### What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended pertuzumab for the adjuvant treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer 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, SMC decided the evidence from the company was not strong enough to be certain that pertuzumab offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility as pertuzumab is a medicine for a rare condition.

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

Pertuzumab should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. Your healthcare professional should talk to you about other treatment options available to you. If your healthcare professional believes that pertuzumab would be of benefit, he or she can make a request to prescribe it for you. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. 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 breast cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

#### Breast Cancer Care & Breast Cancer Now



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



0808 800 6000



<https://breastcancer.org/>



0333 20 70 300

You can find out more about pertuzumab 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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