



Medicine: atezolizumab (brand name: Tecentriq®) with chemotherapy for metastatic non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer

Roche Products Limited

What is atezolizumab used for?

Atezolizumab was considered for the initial treatment of a type of lung cancer called non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It is used together with three other medicines (bevacizumab, paclitaxel and carboplatin) to treat patients with non-squamous NSCLC that has spread to other parts of the body. It is not used for the initial treatment of patients with NSCLC who have cancer cells with specific genetic changes, known as ALK or EGFR mutations.

How does atezolizumab work?

Atezolizumab is an immunotherapy. This is a type of cancer treatment that stimulates a person's immune system (the body's natural defence system) to fight the cancer. Some cancer cells produce a protein (called PD-L1) that can switch off certain immune cells. Atezolizumab attaches to PD-L1, which prevents it from switching off these immune cells and helps the immune system fight the cancer.

What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended atezolizumab for the treatment of metastatic non-squamous 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, SMC decided the evidence from the company was not strong enough to be certain that atezolizumab offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility because atezolizumab is a medicine for an end of life condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

Atezolizumab 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 atezolizumab would be of benefit, they 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



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 – part of the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses



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



01675 477607

You can find out more about atezolizumab 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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