



Medicine: trabectedin (brand name: Yondelis®) for advanced soft tissue sarcoma-resubmission

Immedica

What is trabectedin for?

Trabectedin is used to treat advanced soft tissue sarcoma, which is a cancer that can develop in muscle, fat, blood vessels, or any of the other tissues that support, surround and protect the organs of the body. In advanced soft tissue sarcoma the cancer has started to spread and cannot be removed by surgery. Trabectedin is used when treatment with certain chemotherapy medicines (called anthracyclines and ifosfamide) have stopped working, or in patients who cannot be given these medicines.

How does trabectedin work?

Trabectedin works by attaching to the DNA in the cancer cells and damaging it. This can prevent the cells from dividing too quickly, slowing down the growth of the cancer.

What has SMC said?

SMC has not recommended trabectedin for the treatment of adults with advanced soft tissue sarcoma 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 provided by the company was not strong enough to be certain that trabectedin offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite applying extra flexibility as trabectedin is a medicine for a rare, end of life condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

Trabectedin 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 trabectedin 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



More information

The organisation below can provide more information and support for people with sarcoma and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Sarcoma UK



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



0808 801 0401

You can find out more about trabectedin 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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