



Medicine: abiraterone acetate (brand name: Zytiga®)

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed abiraterone acetate for the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer. It was assessed for use in patients who are newly diagnosed with hormone sensitive prostate cancer that is considered to be high risk. The assessment considered abiraterone when used with another medicine called prednisolone, or prednisone alongside androgen deprivation therapy (a treatment which reduces the amount of testosterone in the body). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted abiraterone acetate for the treatment of prostate cancer as described above.

This advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of abiraterone acetate. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that abiraterone acetate for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is abiraterone used for?

Abiraterone acetate was considered for use to treat metastatic prostate cancer (spread to other parts of the body). Prostate cancer affects the prostate gland which makes semen (the fluid that carries sperm). Abiraterone acetate is used early in the treatment pathway when there is a high risk of the cancer getting worse quickly. It is given to patients whose cancer responds to hormones and it may be particularly useful for those patients who are unsuitable for chemotherapy.

How does abiraterone work?

Prostate cancer cells need male hormones such as testosterone to grow and survive. Abiraterone blocks the production of testosterone which helps slow down the growth of the cancer.

*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/4731/pace-overview-document.pdf>

How does SMC make its decision?

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.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- 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.

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.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of abiraterone by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2215).

More information

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

Prostate Cancer UK



<https://prostatecanceruk.org>



0800 074 8383

Prostate Scotland



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



0131 603 8660

Tackle Prostate Cancer



<https://www.tackleprostate.org>



0800 035 5302

Edinburgh and Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group



www.elprostatecancersupport.co.uk



07933 260066

You can find out more about abiraterone 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>