Medicine: brentuximab vedotin (brand name: Adcetris®)

Takeda UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed brentuximab vedotin for the treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL). It was assessed for use in adults who have already received one systemic treatment and where the cancer cells are shown to have a protein on their surface called CD30. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted brentuximab vedotin for use in certain patients (restricted use).

The restriction means that brentuximab vedotin may be used in patients who have advanced CTCL (which is defined as mycosis fungoides stage IIB and above, primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma or Sézary Syndrome).

This SMC advice takes account of the benefits of a confidential discount that improves the cost-effectiveness of brentuximab.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that brentuximab vedotin 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 brentuximab vedotin used for?

Brentuximab vedotin is used to treat patients with CTCL, which is a cancer of the white blood cells that initially affects the skin. People with CTCL usually live with their condition for many years, and experience symptoms flaring up from time to time. Brentuximab vedotin is used to treat CTCL where a type of protein called CD30 is present on the cancer cells' surface. It is used for patients who have previously received at least one medicine that works throughout the body (systemic treatment).

How does brentuximab vedotin work?

Brentuximab vedotin is an anti-cancer medicine that contains an antibody which is linked to a chemotherapy agent. The antibody recognises and binds to a protein (called CD30) found on the surface of some types of lymphoma cell, this allows the chemotherapy agent to kill the cancer cells.

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 brentuximab vedotin by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2229).

More information

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

Lymphoma Action

https://lymphoma-action.org.uk/ 0808 808 5555

You can find out more about brentuximab vedotin 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