Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: blinatumomab (brand name: Blincyto®)

Amgen Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed blinatumomab for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). It was assessed for the treatment of a type of ALL (called Philadelphia chromosome negative, CD19 positive, B-precursor ALL) in adult patients who are in remission for the first or second time and who still have some minimal residual disease (MRD). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

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

The restriction means that blinatumomab may be used in patients who are in remission for the first time and who have MRD of 0.1% or more.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of blinatumomab. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more flexible approach* in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition where patients are likely to have a life expectancy of less than three years with currently available treatments.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that blinatumomab 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 blinatumomab used for?

Blinatumomab can be used to treat B-precursor ALL which is CD19 positive and Philadelphia chromosome negative. Philadelphia-chromosome negative, CD19 positive, B-precursor ALL is a blood cancer that affects B Cells (a type of white blood cell) where the cells have a protein called CD19 on their surface and do not have a Philadelphia chromosome (an abnormal chromosome sometimes found in the cancer cells of leukaemia patients). Blinatumomab was considered to treat adult patients who have received treatment and are in remission but still have a small number of cancer cells remaining (known as minimal residual disease; MRD).

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

How does blinatumomab work?

Blinatumomab helps the body's immune system to attack and destroy cancer cells. Blinatumomab is an antibody that attaches to the CD19 protein on the cancerous B cells. It also attaches to a protein called CD3 on the surface of T cells (another type of white blood cell), bringing the cancerous B cells close to the T cells. This activates the T cells, which then release enzymes that help to kill the cancerous B 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 blinatumomab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2234).

More information

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

Leukaemia CARE

https://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk/ 0808 8010 444

You can find out more about blinatumomab 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