

# Medicine: mexiletine hydrochloride (brand name: Namuscla®)

Lupin Healthcare (UK) Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed mexiletine hydrochloride to treat the symptoms of myotonia (when muscles relax slowly and with difficulty after they are used) in adults with non-dystrophic myotonic disorders (a group of inherited conditions that affect muscle function but do not cause wasting of the muscles). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

## What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has not recommended mexiletine hydrochloride to treat the symptoms of myotonia as described above.

SMC was unable to accept mexiletine hydrochloride because the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to satisfy the committee that it offers value for money to NHSScotland. This was despite using a more [flexible approach\\*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

## What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

Mexiletine hydrochloride should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. If a patient's healthcare professional thinks a particular patient would benefit from it, they can make a request to prescribe mexiletine hydrochloride. 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](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



## What is mexiletine hydrochloride used for?

Mexiletine hydrochloride is for treating the symptoms of myotonia (muscle stiffness) in adult patients who have a non-dystrophic myotonic disorder. Non-dystrophic myotonic disorders are rare, hereditary conditions caused by a malfunction of muscle ion channels. They cause muscle stiffness, pain, weakness, and fatigue which can reduce mobility and affect patients' ability to perform daily activities.

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

## How does mexiletine hydrochloride work?

Patients with myotonia have hyperactive sodium channels in their muscle cells, causing excessive contractions and muscle stiffness. Mexiletine hydrochloride works by blocking these channels helping to reduce muscle stiffness and the symptoms that come from it.

## 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 mexiletine hydrochloride by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2241).

## More information

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

### Muscular Dystrophy UK



<https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/>



0800 652 6352

You can find out more about mexiletine hydrochloride 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>