

# Medicine: atezolizumab (brand name: Tecentriq®)

Roche Products Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed atezolizumab for the treatment of adult patients with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) which is locally advanced and unresectable or metastatic. Atezolizumab is used together with nab-paclitaxel for treating patients where the cancer cells produce a protein called PD-L1 and where the patient has not yet had chemotherapy for their metastatic disease. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

## What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted atezolizumab for use together with nab-paclitaxel for the treatment of TNBC as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of atezolizumab. 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 atezolizumab 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 atezolizumab used for?

Atezolizumab was considered for the treatment of adult patients with TNBC. Triple negative breast cancer cells do not have receptors for the hormones oestrogen and progesterone and also do not have a protein called the human epithelial growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). Atezolizumab is used to treat TNBC which is locally advanced (spread nearby from where it started) and unresectable (cannot be removed by surgery), or metastatic (spread to other parts of the body). It is used together with another cancer medicine called nab-paclitaxel, for treating patients with TNBC where 1% or more of the cancer cells produce a protein called PD-L1 and where the patient hasn't had chemotherapy for their metastatic disease yet.

\*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/how-we-decide/pace/>

## How does atezolizumab work?

Atezolizumab is an immunotherapy. This is a type of cancer treatment that stimulates a person's immune system (the body's natural defence system) to fight the cancer. Some cancer cells produce a protein (called PD-L1) that can switch off certain immune cells. Atezolizumab attaches to PD-L1, which prevents it from switching off these immune cells and helps the immune system fight the cancer.

## 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 considers 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 atezolizumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2267).

## More information

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

### Breast Cancer Now



<https://breastcancer.org>



0808 800 6000

You can find out more about atezolizumab (Tecentriq®) 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>