

Medicine: atezolizumab (brand name: Tecentriq®)

Hoffman-La Roche Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed atezolizumab for the initial treatment of adult patients with extensive stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC). Atezolizumab is used together with the chemotherapy medicines carboplatin and etoposide. 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 in combination with carboplatin and etoposide 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 is used to treat adults with ES-SCLC. Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) is a fast growing form of lung cancer that tends to spread quickly. In ES-SCLC the cancer has spread beyond the lung. It may have spread within the chest to the other lung or lymph nodes, into the fluid that surrounds the lungs or to other parts of the body. Atezolizumab is used together with the chemotherapy medicines carboplatin and etoposide in the initial treatment of patients with ES-SCLC.

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.

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

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 (SMC2279).

More information

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

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation



<https://www.roycastle.org>



0333 323 7200

Scottish Lung Cancer Nurses Forum – affiliated to Lung Cancer Nursing UK



<http://www.lcnuk.org>



01675 477607

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>