



Medicine: trabectedin (brand name: Yondelis®)

4th Resubmission

Immedica

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed trabectedin for the treatment of adult patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma. Trabectedin is for use in patients where the chemotherapy medicines ifosfamide and anthracyclines have failed, or where these medicines are not suitable for the patient. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted trabectedin for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma as described above.

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

Trabectedin is used to treat advanced soft tissue sarcoma, which is a cancer that can develop in muscle, fat, blood vessels, or any of the other tissues that support, surround and protect the organs of the body. In advanced soft tissue sarcoma the cancer has started to spread and cannot be removed by surgery. Trabectedin is used when treatment with certain chemotherapy medicines (called anthracyclines and ifosfamide) have stopped working, or in patients who cannot be given these medicines.

How does trabectedin work?

Trabectedin works by attaching to the DNA in cancer cells and damaging it. This can prevent the cells from dividing too quickly, slowing down the growth of 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 trabectedin by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2283).

More information

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

Sarcoma UK



<https://sarcoma.org.uk/>



0808 801 0401

You can find out more about trabectedin (Yondelis®) 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>