Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: trastuzumab emtansine (brand name: Kadcyla®)

Roche Products Limited

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed trastuzumab emtansine for the adjuvant treatment (treatment given after surgery) of adult patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) positive early breast cancer. These patients will have received neoadjuvant treatment (treatment given to shrink the tumour before surgery) with taxane-based chemotherapy and HER2 targeted therapy but will still have cancer in the breast and/or local lymph nodes (residual invasive disease). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted trastuzumab emtansine for the treatment of early HER2-positive breast cancer as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of trastuzumab emtansine.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that trastuzumab emtansine 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 trastuzumab emtansine used for?

Trastuzumab emtansine is used to treat HER2-positive breast cancer, an aggressive type of breast cancer that tests positive for a protein called HER2 which promotes the growth of cancer cells. Trastuzumab emtansine was considered as a treatment given after surgery, for patients with early breast cancer who have already had treatment with taxane chemotherapy and HER2-targeted therapy to shrink their tumour before surgery and who still have some breast cancer left in the breast and/or lymph nodes.

How does trastuzumab emtansine work?

Trastuzumab emtansine is made up of two parts joined together. The first part trastuzumab, attaches to HER2-positive breast cancer cells, blocking the signals that make the cancer grow. It also helps the body's own immune cells recognize the cancer cells and kill them. The second part

is DM1, which is a toxic substance that gets activated once inside the cancer cell. This kills cells if they start to divide and grow.

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.
- 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 trastuzumab emtansine by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2298).

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://breastcancernow.org 0808 800 6000

You can find out more about trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla®) 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