

Medicine: daratumumab (brand name: Darzalex®)

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed daratumumab for the treatment of adults with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma. It is used in combination with the medicines: bortezomib, thalidomide and dexamethasone to treat patients who are able to have an autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted daratumumab in combination with bortezomib, thalidomide and dexamethasone to treat patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma that are able to have an ASCT as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of daratumumab. In addition SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that daratumumab 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 daratumumab used for?

Daratumumab is used to treat multiple myeloma. Myeloma is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow. Plasma cells are a type of white blood cell that makes antibodies. In myeloma the body makes large numbers of abnormal plasma cells. These cells can clump together to form tumours in the bone marrow. They also affect the body's ability to produce new blood cells, and produce high levels of abnormal antibodies that cannot fight infection properly and directly affect the bone.

Daratumumab is used to treat adults who have been newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma and are able to have an ASCT. This is a procedure where the patient's diseased bone marrow cells are destroyed and replaced with healthy bone marrow stem cells from the patient's own body.

Daratumumab is used together with bortezomib, thalidomide and dexamethasone.

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

How does daratumumab work?

Daratumumab is a type of medicine called a monoclonal antibody. It binds to a protein called CD38 which is on the surface of myeloma cells. By binding to CD38 daratumumab activates the patient's immune system to destroy the myeloma cells.

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 daratumumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2302).

More information

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

Myeloma UK



<https://www.myeloma.org.uk>



0800 980 3332

You can find out more about daratumumab (Darzalex®) 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>