



Medicine: secukinumab (brand name: Cosentyx®)

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed secukinumab for the treatment of adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. It is used in patients who have not responded adequately to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted secukinumab for the treatment of active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis as described above.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that secukinumab 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 secukinumab used for?

Secukinumab is used to treat active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. Axial spondyloarthritis is a form of inflammatory arthritis that mainly affects the spine. It is a painful and progressive long-term condition. In non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis there are clear signs of inflammation in blood tests and/or MRI scans but the disease does not show up on an X-ray. Secukinumab is used in patients where conventional treatments such as NSAIDs have not worked well enough.

How does secukinumab work?

Secukinumab attaches to a protein in the immune system called interleukin-17A. IL-17A is involved in causing the inflammation in axial spondyloarthritis. By attaching to IL-17A secukinumab can block its actions and help reduce the activity of the immune system and the inflammation that causes the symptoms of the condition.

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.
- 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 secukinumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2308).

More information

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

National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society



<https://nass.co.uk>



0208 741 1515

You can find out more about secukinumab (Cosentyx®) 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>