

Medicine: trifluridine/tipiracil (brand name: Lonsurf®)

Servier Laboratories Limited

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed trifluridine/tipiracil for the treatment of adults with gastric (stomach) cancer, including adenocarcinoma of the gastro-oesophageal junction (cancer of the region between the stomach and gullet), that is metastatic (has spread to other parts of the body). It is used after at least two other treatments that act throughout the body (systemic treatments) have not worked or are not suitable. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted trifluridine/tipiracil for the treatment of advanced stomach cancer as described above in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that trifluridine/tipiracil may be used in patients who have already received two treatments (third-line).

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

Trifluridine/tipiracil is used to treat adults with stomach cancer or cancer of the region between the stomach and the oesophagus (the gullet). The typical symptoms for stomach cancer are vague as they include indigestion, abdominal pain and unexplained weight loss. This means that people are often diagnosed when the cancer is more advanced. Trifluridine/tipiracil is used where the cancer is metastatic, meaning it has spread to other parts of the body.

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

How does trifluridine/tipiracil work?

Trifluridine/tipiracil contains two active parts. Trifluridine directly interferes with the DNA of cancer cells to prevent them from dividing to make other cancer cells. Tipiracil slows the breakdown of trifluridine by the body, helping it work better.

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 trifluridine/tipiracil by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2329).

More information

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

Guts UK Charity



<https://gutscharity.org.uk>



0207 486 0341

You can find out more about trifluridine/tipiracil (Lonsurf®) in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en>