Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: guselkumab (brand name: Tremfya®)

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed guselkumab for the treatment of adults with psoriatic arthritis (PA). It is used when the patient has not responded well enough, or has not been able to tolerate a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) alone, or together with another medicine called methotrexate. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted guselkumab for the treatment of PA as described above in certain patients (restricted use). This includes the following patients:

- patients whose disease has not responded well enough to, or who have been intolerant to two previous conventional DMARDs but have not received biologic DMARD therapy,
- patients whose disease has not responded well enough to conventional DMARDs and one or more tumour necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors (a type of biologic DMARD), and
- patients in whom TNF inhibitors cannot be taken or are not tolerated.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that guselkumab 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 guselkumab used for?

Guselkumab is used to treat psoriatic arthritis (PA). PA is an autoimmune disease. This is when the immune system, which normally fights infection, start attacking healthy cells. PA is a type of arthritis, which causes the joints to become swollen, painful and stiff that can develop in some people who have psoriasis (a long-term skin condition). It can also cause pain and tenderness where tendons and ligaments attach to the bone. The condition can become worse over time.

How does guselkumab work?

PA is caused by an over-active immune system. IL-23 is a protein involved in the immune system that is present at increased levels in patients with PA. Guselkumab binds to and blocks IL-23, which helps to decrease the inflammation and symptoms of PA.

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 guselkumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2360).

More information

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

Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Alliance (PAPAA)

https://www.papaa.org 01923 672837

The Psoriasis Association

https://www.psoriasis-association.org.uk 01604 251620

You can find out more about guselkumab (Tremfya®) 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