



Medicine: filgotinib (brand name: Jyseleca®)

Gilead Sciences, Inc

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed filgotinib for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA). It can be used by itself, or together with methotrexate (a medicine used to treat RA), in adults who have not responded well enough to, or who cannot take one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted filgotinib for use in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that filgotinib can be used to treat patients with severe RA who have not responded to intensive treatment with a combination of conventional DMARDs. Under the restriction, filgotinib can also be used to treat patients with severe disease whose disease is not controlled adequately by a tumour necrosis factor (TNF) antagonist and who cannot take the medicine rituximab. In both cases, filgotinib can be used on its own or in combination with methotrexate.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that filgotinib 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 filgotinib used for?

Filgotinib is used for the treatment of RA, an autoimmune disease. This is when the immune system, which normally fights infection, starts attacking healthy cells. In RA the immune system attacks the cells that line the joints and causes joints to be swollen, stiff and sore. SMC has accepted filgotinib together with methotrexate (another medicine used for treating RA) or on its own, for treating severe RA where the patient has not responded to intensive treatment with conventional DMARDs (medicines that are commonly used to treat RA and reduce its effects on the joints). SMC also accepted filgotinib (alone or together with methotrexate) to treat patients with severe RA whose disease has not been well enough controlled on a TNF antagonist (a type of biologic medicine used to treat RA) and who cannot take the biologic DMARD rituximab.

How does filgotinib work?

Filgotinib works by blocking the actions of proteins (called janus kinases) which are involved in causing the inflammation in RA. By blocking them, filgotinib helps to reduce the inflammation and symptoms of RA.

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 only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of filgotinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2365).

More information

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

National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS)



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



0800 298 7650

You can find out more about filgotinib (Jyseleca®) 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>