



Medicine: atezolizumab (brand name: Tecentriq®)

Roche Products Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed atezolizumab for treating metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It is used in patients whose tumours have a high level of a protein called PD-L1 ($\geq 50\%$ of tumour cells) and/or where immune cells infiltrating the tumour (these are immune cells that have left the bloodstream and migrated to attack the tumour cells), have a high level of PD-L1 ($\geq 10\%$). In addition the cancer cells should not have changes in the *ALK* or *EGFR* genes. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted atezolizumab for the treatment of NSCLC as described above.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that atezolizumab 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 atezolizumab used for?

Atezolizumab is used by itself for the treatment of NSCLC, which is a type of lung cancer. It is used for first-line treatment (initial treatment) when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body (is metastatic) and the tumour cells and/or immune cells attacking it, have a high level of a protein called PD-L1. It is not used for patients whose cancer cells have changes in the *EGFR* or *ALK* genes as these patients will receive targeted treatments for these.

How does atezolizumab work?

Atezolizumab is an immunotherapy. This is a type of cancer treatment that stimulates the immune system (the body's natural defence system) to fight the cancer. It works by attaching to a protein called PD-L1. This protein suppresses the body's immune system, preventing cancer cells from being attacked by the immune cells. By attaching to the protein, atezolizumab helps the immune system to fight the cancer.

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

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of atezolizumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2379).

More information

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

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation



<https://www.roycastle.org>



0333 323 7200

Scottish Lung Cancer Nurses Forum – affiliated to Lung Cancer Nursing UK



<http://www.lcnuk.org>



01675 477607

You can find out more about atezolizumab (Tecentriq®) 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>