



## Medicine: trastuzumab deruxtecan (brand name: Enhertu®)

Daiichi Sankyo UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed trastuzumab deruxtecan for the treatment of adult patients with HER2-positive breast cancer that is unresectable (cannot be removed by surgery) or metastatic (has spread to other parts of the body). It is for use in patients who have already received two or more HER2-targeted treatments for their advanced cancer. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

### What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted trastuzumab deruxtecan on an interim basis (interim acceptance), for the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer, as described above. Interim acceptance is an option available to SMC for certain\* medicines. This means that trastuzumab deruxtecan is accepted for use subject to ongoing evaluation and reassessment once further evidence is available.

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

The decision to accept trastuzumab deruxtecan on an interim basis means that if your healthcare professional thinks that it is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. Once further evidence is available, SMC will reassess the medicine and provide an updated decision on its routine availability in NHSScotland.



### What is trastuzumab deruxtecan used for?

Trastuzumab deruxtecan is used for treating advanced HER2-positive breast cancer. This is an aggressive type of breast cancer that tests positive for a protein called human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which promotes the growth of cancer cells. Around 20% of breast cancers are HER2-positive. Trastuzumab deruxtecan is used for treating patients with HER2-positive breast cancer that is unresectable or metastatic, where the patient has already received two or more HER2-targeted treatments for their advanced cancer.

\*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/how-we-decide/interim-acceptance-decision-option/>

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

## How does trastuzumab deruxtecan work?

Trastuzumab deruxtecan is made up of two parts joined together. The first part, trastuzumab, attaches to HER2-positive breast cancer cells, blocking the signals that make the cancer grow. It also helps the body's own immune cells recognise the cancer cells and kill them. The second part is deruxtecan, which is a toxic substance that is activated once trastuzumab has attached to HER2 and enters the cancer cell. Deruxtecan blocks an enzyme called topoisomerase 1, which is needed to copy DNA when cells are dividing. By blocking this enzyme, deruxtecan helps to prevent the cancer cells from multiplying and they eventually die.

## 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 trastuzumab deruxtecan by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2388).

## More information

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

### Breast Cancer Now



<https://breastcancernow.org>



0808 800 6000

### METUPEUK



<https://metupuk.org.uk>

You can find out more about trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu®) in the Patient Leaflet by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>