



## Medicine: tucatinib (brand name: Tukysa®)

Seagen Inc

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed tucatinib used together with trastuzumab and capecitabine 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 tried 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 tucatinib used together with trastuzumab and capecitabine for the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer, as described above.

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

Tucatinib is used to treat 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. Tucatinib is used together with capecitabine (a type of chemotherapy medicine) and trastuzumab (a type of HER2-targeted medicine) for treating patients with HER2-positive breast cancer that is unresectable or metastatic, where the patient has already tried two or more HER2-targeted treatments for their advanced cancer.

### How does tucatinib work?

Tucatinib is a type of medicine called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. It works by blocking signals from HER2 receptors that help the cancer cells to grow. By blocking HER2, tucatinib helps to slow or stop the cancer cells from growing.

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

## 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 tucatinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2398).

## 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

### METUP UK



<https://metupuk.org.uk>

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



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