



Medicine: pemigatinib (brand name: Pemazyre®)

Incyte Biosciences UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed pemigatinib for the treatment of adults with cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) that is locally advanced (has spread nearby from where it started) or metastatic (has spread to other parts of the body). It is used in patients whose cancer has got worse despite at least one previous treatment and where the cancer cells have genetic changes known as FGFR2 fusions or rearrangements. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted pemigatinib for treating adults with bile duct cancer as described above.

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

Pemigatinib is used for the treatment of cholangiocarcinoma which is cancer of the bile ducts. The bile ducts are small tubes that go from the liver to the small intestine. They carry bile, which is a fluid that helps in the digestion of fats. Pemigatinib is for treating bile duct cancer that is either locally advanced or metastatic and where the cancer cells have changes in the FGFR2 gene known as rearrangements or fusions. These genetic changes are often found in bile duct cancers and are important in the development and growth of cancers.

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

How does pemigatinib work?

Pemigatinib is a kinase inhibitor. It blocks the activity of the abnormal FGFR proteins that are found on the surface of cancer cells with changes in the FGFR2 gene. By blocking their activity, pemigatinib helps to slow the growth and spread of 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.
- 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 pemigatinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2399).

More information

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

AMMF – The Cholangiocarcinoma Charity



<https://ammf.org.uk>



01279 661479

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



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