

# Medicine: upadacitinib (brand name: Rinvoq®)

AbbVie Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed upadacitinib for the treatment of adults and adolescents who are 12 years and older with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, which is a type of eczema. It is used in patients who need a systemic therapy (a treatment that acts throughout the body such as an oral or injectable medicine). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

## What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted upadacitinib for the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis as described above, for restricted use. The restriction means that upadacitinib may be used in patients with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis who need systemic treatment and whose condition has responded poorly to existing immunosuppressant medicines (such as ciclosporin), or who cannot take them.

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

### What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that upadacitinib 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 upadacitinib used for?

Upadacitinib is used to treat moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, which is a long-term condition where the skin becomes inflamed. Moderate to severe atopic dermatitis causes intense itching and makes the skin dry, sore and painful. In atopic dermatitis, there are usually flare-ups where the symptoms get worse, followed by periods of improved symptoms. Upadacitinib can be used alone, or together with certain medicines called corticosteroids or calcineurin inhibitors that are applied to the skin.

## How does upadacitinib work?

Upadacitinib works by blocking the actions of proteins (called janus kinases) which are involved in causing the inflammation in atopic dermatitis. By blocking them upadacitinib helps to reduce the inflammation and symptoms.

## 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 upadacitinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2417).

## More information

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

### National Eczema Society



<https://eczema.org>



0800 448 0818

### Eczema Outreach Support



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



01506 840395

### Allergy UK



<https://www.allergyuk.org>



01322 619898

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



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