

Anastrozole (Arimidex[®])

No. 90/04

AstraZeneca UK Ltd

Indication: Adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal women with oestrogen receptor (ER) positive early invasive breast cancer who are unable to take tamoxifen because of a high risk of thromboembolism or endometrial abnormalities.

Summary of Recommendation

8 February, 2004

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The recommendation is summarised as follows:

Advice: following a full submission.

Anastrozole (Arimidex[®]) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for the adjunctive treatment of early breast cancer in postmenopausal women with oestrogen-receptor positive disease who cannot take tamoxifen because of the presence of thrombophilic disorders or a past history of venous thromboembolic events, endometrial malignancy or undiagnosed vaginal bleeding. Treatment with anastrozole should be initiated by oncologists

Tamoxifen continues to be the first line treatment for early breast cancer where it is not contra-indicated for the reasons above.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman