

Medicine: chlormethine hydrochloride (brand name: Ledaga®)

Recordati Rare Diseases UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed chlormethine hydrochloride for the topical treatment (treatment that is applied on the skin) of adults with mycosis fungoides cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (MF-CTCL). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted chlormethine hydrochloride for the treatment of MF-CTCL as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of chlormethine hydrochloride. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that chlormethine hydrochloride 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 chlormethine hydrochloride used for?

Chlormethine hydrochloride is used to treat MF-CTCL. MF-CTCL is a type of cancer where the T-cells (cells of the body's immune system) in the skin grow in an uncontrolled way. This leads to a build-up of abnormal T-cells, which can cause oval or ring-like patches and plaques to form on the skin. These can cause pain and itching, which may be severe. MF-CTCL develops over a long period of time. It is the most common form of a group of cancers known as CTCLs, which are long-term cancers of cells in the immune system that affect the skin.

How does chlormethine hydrochloride work?

Chlormethine hydrochloride is a type of medicine called an alkylating agent. It attaches to the DNA of cells as they are dividing. By attaching to the DNA, it stops the cancer cells that cause the skin lesions 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 consider 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 just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of chlormethine hydrochloride by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2318).

More information

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

Lymphoma Action



<https://lymphoma-action.org.uk>



0808 808 5555

You can find out more about chlormethine hydrochloride (Ledaga®) in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en>