Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: baricitinib (brand name: Olumiant®)

Eli Lilly and Company

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed baricitinib for the treatment of adults with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis (AD), 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 baricitinib for the treatment of moderate to severe AD as described above in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that baricitinib may be used in patients who need a systemic therapy and have failed at least one such medicine called an immunosuppressant (medicine that reduces the activity of the body's immune system). Patients may have failed this treatment because it is not suitable for them, or because it has not controlled their disease adequately.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that baricitinib 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 baricitinib used for?

Baricitinib is used to treat moderate to severe atopic dermatitis (AD). AD is a long-term condition where the skin becomes inflamed. Moderate to severe AD causes intense itching that makes the skin sore and painful. In AD, there are usually flare-ups where the symptoms get worse, followed by periods of improved symptoms.

How does baricitinib work?

Baricitinib is a type of medicine called an immunosuppressant. Baricitinib works by blocking the actions of enzymes called janus kinases. These enzymes are involved in the overactive immune

system in patients with AD. By blocking these enzymes, baricitinib helps to reduce the inflammation and symptoms of AD.

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 just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of baricitinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2337).

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

Allergy UK

https://www.allergyuk.org

01322 619898

You can find out more about baricitinib (Olumiant®) 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