

Medicine: acalabrutinib (brand name: Calquence®)

AstraZeneca Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed acalabrutinib for the treatment of adults with previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted acalabrutinib for use in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that acalabrutinib may be used in patients who:

- have not been previously treated for their CLL; and
- who do not have a del(17p)/TP53 mutation (a genetic change present in the cancer cells of 5-10% of patients with CLL); and
- who are not fit enough to receive the chemo-immunotherapy FCR (fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab).

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that acalabrutinib 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 acalabrutinib used for?

Acalabrutinib is used for the treatment of CLL, which is a type of blood cancer. In CLL, a type of white blood cell called the B cells become cancerous. A protein called Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) is important in the multiplication and survival of the cancerous B cells.

How does acalabrutinib work?

Acalabrutinib is a targeted cancer medicine. It blocks the activity of BTK, which helps cancerous B cells grow and survive. By blocking BTK, acalabrutinib can help to slow the growth 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 just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of acalabrutinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2347).

More information

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

CLL Support



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



0800 977 4396

Leukaemia Care



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



08088 010 444

Lymphoma Action



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



0808 808 5555

You can find out more about acalabrutinib (Calquence®) 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>