Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: ibrutinib (brand name: Imbruvica®)

Janssen-Cilag Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed ibrutinib for the treatment of adults with Waldenström's macroglobulinaemia (WM; a type of blood cancer). It is used on its own to treat patients who have had at least one previous treatment, or for initial treatment in patients who cannot take chemo-immunotherapy. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted ibrutinib for the treatment of WM as described above, in certain patients (restricted use). The restriction means that ibrutinib can be used to treat patients who have received at least one previous treatment.

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

Ibrutinib is used to treat adults with WM, a rare cancer of a type of white blood cells. These lymphoplasmacytic cells (LPL cells) are a type of white blood cell called a B cell. WM is therefore sometimes called a B-cell lymphoma.

How does ibrutinib work?

Ibrutinib is a targeted cancer medicine. It blocks the activity of a protein called Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK), which helps cancerous B cells grow and survive. By blocking BTK, ibrutinib 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.

*https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/how-we-decide/pace/

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 ibrutinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2387).

More information

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

WMUK

https://wmuk.org.uk

0300 303 5870

Lymphoma Action

https://lymphoma-action.org.uk

0808 808 5555

Blood Cancer UK

https://bloodcancer.org.uk

0808 169 5155

You can find out more about ibrutinib (Imbruvica®) 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