



Medicine: osimertinib (brand name: Tagrisso®) Resubmission

AstraZeneca

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed osimertinib, given on its own for the initial (first-line) treatment of adults with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), where the cancer is advanced (has spread to tissues near the lung or to other parts of the body). It is for use in patients where the cancer cells have changes (mutations) in a gene called *EGFR*. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted osimertinib for the treatment of NSCLC as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of osimertinib. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach](#)* in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition where patients are likely to have a life expectancy of less than three years with currently available treatments.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that osimertinib 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 osimertinib used for?

Osimertinib is used to treat a type of lung cancer called NSCLC. It is for patients whose cancer cells have changes (mutations) in a gene responsible for making a protein called EGFR. Cancer cells with this kind of mutation are described as EGFR positive. Around 10% of patients with NSCLC have cancer cells with this kind of mutation. Osimertinib is used for the initial treatment of these patients where the cancer is advanced (has spread to tissues near the lung or to other parts of the body).

How does osimertinib work?

Osimertinib is an example of a targeted therapy for lung cancer. In patients with EGFR positive NSCLC, the *EGFR* gene makes a faulty EGFR protein, which drives the growth of the cancer cells. Osimertinib works by blocking the activity of the faulty EGFR protein, which helps slow the growth and spread of the cancer cells.

*<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 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 osimertinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2382).

More information


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

EGFR Positive UK

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

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

 <https://www.roycastle.org>

 0333 323 7200

Scottish Lung Cancer Nurses Forum – affiliated to Lung Cancer Nursing UK

 <https://www.lcnuk.org>

 01675 477607

You can find out more about osimertinib (Tagrisso®) in the Patient Leaflet by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.

 <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>