



## Medicine: ixekizumab (brand name: Taltz®)

Eli Lilly & Company Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed ixekizumab for the treatment of adults with radiographic axial spondyloarthritis who have not responded well enough to conventional treatments, and also for active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis where it is used in patients who have not responded well enough to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

### What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has not recommended ixekizumab for the treatment of radiographic axial spondyloarthritis and active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis as described above.

SMC was unable to accept ixekizumab because the evidence provided by the company was not strong enough to satisfy the committee that it offers value for money to NHSScotland.

### What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

Ixekizumab should not normally be prescribed on the NHS in Scotland for use as described above. If a patient's healthcare professional thinks a particular patient would benefit from it, they can make a request to prescribe ixekizumab. All health boards have procedures in place to consider these requests. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx)



### What is ixekizumab used for?

Ixekizumab is used to treat active radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), which is a form of inflammatory arthritis that mainly affects the spine. It is a painful and progressive long-term condition. In axSpA the disease shows up on an X-ray. Ixekizumab is also used in non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) where there are clear signs of inflammation in blood tests and/or MRI scans but the disease does not show up on an X-ray. Ixekizumab is used in patients where conventional treatments and NSAIDs have not worked well enough.

### How does ixekizumab work?

Ixekizumab attaches to a protein in the immune system called interleukin-17A. IL-17A is involved in causing the inflammation in this condition. By attaching to IL-17A ixekizumab can

block its actions and help reduce the activity of the immune system and the inflammation that causes the symptoms.

## 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 ixekizumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2440).

## More information

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

### National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS)



<https://nass.co.uk>



0208 741 1515

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



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