

Medicine: tofacitinib (brand name: Xeljanz®)

Pfizer Limited

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed tofacitinib for the treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis. It is used to treat patients where conventional treatments have not worked well enough. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted tofacitinib for treating adults with active ankylosing spondylitis as described above.

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

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that tofacitinib 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 tofacitinib used for?

Tofacitinib is used to treat active ankylosing spondylitis, which is a form of inflammatory arthritis that mainly affects the spine. It is a painful and progressive long-term condition. Tofacitinib is used in patients where conventional treatments have not worked well enough.

How does tofacitinib work?

Tofacitinib works by blocking the actions of proteins (called janus kinases) which are involved in causing the inflammation in ankylosing spondylitis. By blocking them tofacitinib reduces the inflammation and symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis.

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 tofacitinib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2463).

More information

The organisation below can provide more information and support for people with ankylosing spondylitis 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 tofacitinib (Xeljanz®) in the Patient Leaflet (PIL) by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



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