

From:
Sent: 23 February 2007 13:01
To: Christopher Feinmann
Subject: NICE ACD on H&N Cancer – Erbitux

Dear Christopher,

I do not consider that all of the relevant evidence has been taken into account on this evaluation report on Cetuximab. The lack of awareness of the needs of the H&N cancer patients who are suffering from this disease. seems to have been overlooked. The cost of hospital care, ongoing allied health care in the community need to be taken into account when assessing the financial cost to the NHS

Dying of squamous cell cancer is ugly, horrific and terrifying not only for the patient, but their families and carers. Without Erbitux patients are left to die agonising deaths. Facial cancer affects the ability to eat, drink, communicate. The invading tumours cannot be treated and patients are left to die either from suffocation or carotid haemorrhage - drowning in their own blood.

My experience as the founder of Let's Face It, a charity supporting H&N cancer patients and families, has been one of abject horror at the lack of understanding and care of these people. You can imagine my thankfulness in knowing there is a new drug available that will shrink the invading tumours and give these patients a dignified end to their lives.

There is always a price to pay for care. Taking into account the cost of community care and hospitals and hospice care for these patients, I believe that Erbitux will balance out the cost, releasing hospital beds, and professionals care in hospitals.

If I can be of any help in advising the panel for their final report I shall be happy to do so.

My best wishes,
Christine Piff - Founder/Chief Executive L.F.I.

Delivered via MessageLabs
