

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

Mifamurtide for osteosarcoma

This leaflet is about when **mifamurtide** should be used to treat children, adolescents and young adults with high-grade osteosarcoma after surgical removal of their tumour in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It does not cover using mifamurtide to treat tumours that cannot be removed by surgery or when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. It is written for young adults with osteosarcoma and the parents and carers of children, adolescents and young adults with osteosarcoma. It may also be useful for children and adolescents with osteosarcoma themselves or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe osteosarcoma or the treatments in detail – a member of the healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations on page 4.



This may not be the only possible treatment for osteosarcoma. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether it is suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends mifamurtide as a possible treatment for some children, adolescents and young adults with osteosarcoma.

Who can have mifamurtide?

Children, adolescents and young adults should be able to have mifamurtide if:

- their tumour is high-grade and non-metastatic **and**
- they have had an operation to remove the tumour **and**
- they are also having chemotherapy with multiple drugs.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work, and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS. NICE recommended mifamurtide because more people are cured if they have mifamurtide as well as chemotherapy, and the cost was justified by the benefits it provided.

Osteosarcoma

Osteosarcoma is the most common type of bone cancer that mainly affects children and young adults. It can start growing anywhere in the skeleton, but the most common places are the legs or upper arms. A non-metastatic cancer is one that has not spread to other parts of the body. A high-grade cancer is more likely to grow faster and to spread to other parts of the body than a low-grade cancer.

Mifamurtide

Mifamurtide (also known as Mepact) is a drug that helps to boost the body's immune system and kill cancer cells. It is given through a drip into a vein.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if a child, adolescent or young adult has high-grade osteosarcoma, and they (and/or their parents or carers) and their doctor think that mifamurtide is the right treatment for them (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 3), they should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if you think they are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for children, adolescents and young adults with osteosarcoma. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- Bone Cancer Research Trust, 0113 262 1852
www.bcrct.org.uk
- CancerHelp UK, 0808 800 4040
cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
- Sarcoma UK, 020 7250 8271
www.sarcoma.org.uk
- Teenage Cancer Trust, 020 7612 0370
www.teenagecancertrust.org

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. Your local patient advice and liaison service (usually known as 'PALS') may be able to give you more information and support. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE produces guidance (advice) for the NHS about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This leaflet and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA235

The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on the Browsealoud logo on the NICE website to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this leaflet in their own information about osteosarcoma.

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