

## **Vinflunine for previously treated advanced or metastatic transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract**

This document is about when **vinflunine** should be used in the NHS in England and Wales to treat people with a type of cancer called transitional cell cancer that affects the bladder, kidneys or ureters (together called the urothelial tract). The document covers urothelial tract cancer that is advanced or metastatic and has already been treated with platinum-containing cancer drugs. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It is written for people with cancer of the urothelial tract but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe cancer of the urothelial tract or the treatments in detail – your clinicians should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on page 4.

*There are several possible treatments for cancer of the urothelial tract. Your healthcare team should talk to you about the treatment options available.*

### What has NICE said?

NICE does not recommend vinflunine for people with advanced or metastatic transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract that has been treated previously with platinum-containing cancer 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 applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life. Vinflunine does not provide enough benefit to patients to justify its high cost, and did not qualify for special consideration, so NICE did not recommend it.

## Transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract

The urothelial tract includes the bladder, kidneys and ureters (tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder). Transitional cell cancers start in the lining of the urothelial tract. Around 9 out of 10 people with cancer of the urothelial tract in the UK have the transitional cell type.

Urothelial tract cancer is advanced or metastatic if it has spread to the surrounding tissues or other parts of the body.

## Vinflunine

Vinflunine is a type of chemotherapy drug that interferes with cancer cell growth by stopping the cells dividing.

### What does this mean for me?

Vinflunine should not normally be prescribed on the NHS for transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract that has been treated previously with platinum-containing cancer drugs. Your doctor should talk to you about other treatment options available to you.

NICE will decide whether to review this guidance in November 2015.

If you are already taking vinflunine for transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract that has been treated previously with platinum-containing cancer drugs, you should be able to continue taking it until you and your clinicians decide it is the right time to stop.

## More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with cancer of the urothelial tract. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- CancerHelp UK (the patient information website of Cancer Research UK), 0808 800 4040  
[www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000  
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)
- Rarer Cancers Foundation, 0800 334 5551  
[www.rarercancers.org.uk](http://www.rarercancers.org.uk)

NHS Choices ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) may be a good place to find out more. 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](http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance)*

*This document and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA272](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA272)*

*The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on [Accessibility](#) at the bottom of the NICE homepage to use this service.*

*We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this document in their own information about transitional cell cancer of the urothelial tract.*

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