The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Comments on the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) produced for the NICE single technology appraisal of *Eltrombopag for the treatment of chronic idiopathic (immune) thrombocytopenic purpura (review of technology appraisal 205)*

Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account?

- Firstly, with respect to the removal of spleen as a treatment option for ITP, it needs to be stressed that this is not an effective treatment in older people, the cohort who are more likely to be affected by ITP.
- Secondly, coercion from physician should not be the reason for splenectomy but agreement after understanding in detail the several risks with this procedure including infection, thrombosis and pulmonary hypertension. It would be preferable to consider the clause that patients who may be offered indium labelled platelet survival scan to determine the need for splenectomy

Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?

- Head to head comparisons of romiplostim and eltrombopag is unlikely.
- In clinical practice, especially in the patients who self-administer, wastage of romiplostim can be a factor since the dosage is weight-based and vials come in 0.5 ml sizes. In this respect, eltrombopag is actually an advantage since there are only two dosages
- Romiplostim has been suggested to be more effective – this is not true. Both these agents are equally effective

Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?

- Eltrombopag should be prescribed and supervised by a haematologist to ensure its appropriate use.
- Some guidance on monitoring for visual problems from Eltrombopag should be included

Are there any aspects of the recommendations that need particular consideration to ensure we avoid unlawful discrimination against any group of people on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity?

- None

[redacted]
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(Representing the Royal College of Pathologists and the British Committee for Standards in Haematology).