Response to ACD 2
Pixantrone monotherapy for treating relapsed or refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma

The Lymphoma Association notes the conclusions drawn by the Appraisal Committee, after its second meeting, not to recommend pixantrone within its marketing authorisation despite the additional evidence provided by the manufacturer and the proposed patient access scheme.

As we have commented previously, this decision will be a disappointment to people with aggressive NHL who don't respond well to, or relapse after, two standard courses of treatment. People in this situation, as the committee acknowledged, face an incredibly difficult future as there is no standard of care.

There is a huge unmet need for this patient population. Clinicians and their patients are currently making difficult treatment decisions based on limited clinical evidence. Pixantrone is the only licensed treatment option for this indication and the alternative treatment options currently used in England and Wales have no stronger or more conclusive evidence to support their use for this group of patients.

We urge the manufacturer and NICE to continue exploring whether it is possible to achieve a patient access scheme that will enable NICE to approve the use of pixantrone in order to improve the treatment options for this poorly served group of patients.

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Lymphoma Association
1 November 2013