

Vedolizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis

Information for the public

Published: 5 June 2015

www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Vedolizumab (Entyvio) is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.

People should be able to have the treatment until it stops working or surgery is needed. Their condition should be assessed 12 months after they started taking vedolizumab. If they still have symptoms but it is clear that the treatment is helping, they can continue to have it. If they no longer have symptoms, treatment could be stopped, and later restarted if symptoms return.

People who continue to take vedolizumab should be assessed at least every 12 months to see whether the treatment is working well enough for them to carry on taking it.

What does this mean for me?

If you have moderate to severe ulcerative colitis, and your doctor thinks that vedolizumab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Vedolizumab should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Vedolizumab was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

The condition and the treatments

Ulcerative colitis is a long-term condition in which the lining of the large intestine becomes inflamed. The commonest symptoms include bloody diarrhoea, abdominal (tummy) pain and needing to empty your bowels frequently. Conventional therapy includes corticosteroids and the drugs called mercaptopurine and azathioprine. Surgery to remove part of the large intestine may be an option if medicines do not work well enough.

Vedolizumab (Entyvio) reduces inflammation of the intestine, easing the symptoms.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Crohns and Colitis UK, 0845 130 2233, www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk,
- IA (The Ileostomy and Internal Pouch Support Group), 0800 0184 724, www.iasupport.org

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-1161-5

Accreditation

