

Pembrolizumab for advanced melanoma not previously treated with ipilimumab

Information for the public

Published: 25 November 2015

www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) is recommended. This drug is a possible treatment for adults with melanoma that:

- can't be completely removed by surgery or has spread to other parts of the body
- has not been treated with ipilimumab before.

What does this mean for me?

If you have advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma and your doctor thinks that pembrolizumab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Pembrolizumab 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.

NICE applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life. Pembrolizumab was recommended because it works better than other treatments available on the NHS. Although it costs more than other treatments, this was justified by the benefits it provided when the special considerations were applied.

The condition and the treatment

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer. Advanced melanoma is when the cancer can't be completely removed by surgery (unresectable) or has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic).

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) is a drug that helps the body's immune system to recognise and destroy melanoma cells. It is given by injection.

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

Sources of advice and support

- Cancer Research UK Patient Information, 0808 800 4040
www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
- Melanoma UK, 0808 171 2455
www.melanomauk.org.uk
- Skcin – Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity
www.skcin.org

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ISBN: 978-1-4731-1554-5

Accreditation

