

Nivolumab for treating advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Nivolumab (Opdivo) on its own is recommended as a possible treatment for people with advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma.

What does this mean for me?

If you have advanced melanoma, and your doctor thinks that nivolumab is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Nivolumab should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued. Because nivolumab was made available in the NHS through the 'early access to medicines' scheme, NHS England has indicated that it will be available on the NHS 30 days after the guidance is 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.

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

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).

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

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Melanoma UK, 0808 171 2455
www.melanomauk.org.uk
- Skcin – Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity, 0115 9819 116
www.skcin.org
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
- Cancer Research UK Patient Information (previously CancerHelp UK), 0808 800 4040
www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer

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Accreditation

