

Cetuximab for treating recurrent or metastatic squamous cell cancer of the head and neck

Information for the public

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Cetuximab (Erbix), given with platinum-based chemotherapy, is available on the NHS. It is a possible treatment in adults for squamous cell head and neck cancer that started in the mouth and has spread or come back.

If you are not eligible for cetuximab but are already taking it, you should be able to continue until you and your doctor decide when best to stop.

Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other treatments?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day life?
- What happens if the treatment does not work?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment? Are there other treatments available?

Information and support

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

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Macmillan](#), 0808 808 0000
- [Cancer Research UK Patient Information](#) (previously CancerHelp UK), 0808 800 4040
- [Mouth Cancer Foundation](#), 01924 950 950
- [The Swallows Head and Neck Cancer Support Group](#), 01253 428 940

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