

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE
EXCELLENCE**

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

**STA Pembrolizumab for untreated metastatic or
unresectable squamous cell head and neck cancer
[ID1140]**

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

Consultation

- | |
|---|
| 1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how? |
|---|

No issues were identified

- | |
|--|
| 2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these? |
|--|

No issues were identified

- | |
|--|
| 3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these? |
|--|

No issues were identified

- | |
|--|
| 4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other |
|--|

groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?
No

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?
No

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?
No

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the appraisal consultation document, and, if so, where?
No

Approved by Associate Director (name): Jasdeep Hayre

Date: 06/01/2020

Final appraisal determination

(when an ACD issued)

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No additional potential equality issues raised.

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Yes, pembrolizumab is only recommended as monotherapy. Clinical experts did not identify a group who would not be able to have pembrolizumab monotherapy (but pembrolizumab in combination with chemotherapy might not be suitable for people who are less fit and/or older). Therefore, the recommendation is not expected to restrict access to pembrolizumab for particular group.

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

The committee agreed to consider the 2 groups of patients separately (cancer starting inside and outside the oral cavity) because the treatment options for the 2 groups are different, and the efficacy of the comparator therapy may be different too. However, cost-effectiveness analysis showed that pembrolizumab monotherapy is cost-effective use of NHS resources in both groups. Therefore the committee recommended it for use in the NHS for both groups.

Cost-effectiveness analysis showed that pembrolizumab combination therapy is not cost-effective use of NHS resources in either patient group and therefore was not recommended for use in the NHS.

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final appraisal determination, and, if so, where?

Not currently included in the FAD.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Jasdeep Hayre

Date: 22 September 2020