

# Belimumab for treating active autoantibody-positive systemic lupus erythematosus

Information for the public

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Belimumab (Benlysta) is available on the NHS as a possible additional treatment for active autoantibody-positive systemic lupus erythematosus if all of the following apply:

- The person's disease is active even with usual treatment, they have a SELENA-SLEDAI (Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus: National Assessment – Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index) score of 10 or more points, and have a blood test showing disease.
- Their SELENA-SLEDAI score improves by 4 or more points after having belimumab for 24 weeks.

## 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

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

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Lupus UK](#), 01708 731251
- AOFAC Foundation, [info@aofacfoundation.org](mailto:info@aofacfoundation.org)

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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

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