

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Appraisal

Palbociclib in combination with fulvestrant for treating advanced, hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer after endocrine therapy

Final scope

Remit/appraisal objective

To appraise the clinical and cost effectiveness of palbociclib within its marketing authorisation for treating advanced hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer.

Background

Breast cancer arises from the tissues of the ducts or lobules of the breast. The cancer is said to be 'advanced' if it has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, liver, and lungs (metastatic cancer), or if it has grown directly into nearby tissues and cannot be completely removed by surgery.

In 2016 in England, around 45,960 people were diagnosed with breast cancer.¹ In 2016 there were 9,685 deaths from breast cancer in England.² The 1-year survival rate for adults with metastatic breast cancer in England is 63%.³ Approximately 13% of women with breast cancer have advanced disease when they are diagnosed,⁴ and around 35% of people with early or locally advanced disease will progress to metastatic breast cancer in the 10 years following diagnosis.⁵ Most (80%) breast cancers are hormone-receptor positive and around two-thirds are oestrogen receptor positive. Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) is present in about 15-25% of breast cancers.⁶ Approximately 64% of women with metastatic breast cancer in the UK have hormone-receptor positive, HER2 negative disease.⁷

Current treatments for advanced breast cancer aim to relieve symptoms, prolong survival and maintain a good quality of life with few adverse events. Treatment depends on whether the cancer cells have particular receptors (hormone receptor status or human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 [HER2] status), the extent of the disease and previous treatments.

NICE clinical guideline 81 (CG81) recommends first-line treatment with endocrine therapy for most people with advanced hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. But for people whose disease is life-threatening or requires early relief of symptoms, CG81 recommends chemotherapy. The endocrine therapies used in clinical practice in postmenopausal people include aromatase inhibitors (anastrozole and letrozole) or tamoxifen, if aromatase inhibitors are not tolerated or are contraindicated. Women who are

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Issue Date: February 2019

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premenopausal or perimenopausal will receive first-line treatment with tamoxifen and ovarian suppression if they have not previously received tamoxifen, while men will receive tamoxifen as a first-line endocrine treatment. NICE technology appraisals [495](#) and [496](#) recommend palbociclib with an aromatase inhibitor and ribociclib with and aromatase inhibitor for treating hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer as initial endocrine based therapy in adults. Fulvestrant is not recommended for untreated locally advanced or metastatic oestrogen-receptor positive breast cancer (NICE technology appraisal [503](#)).

For people who receive first-line treatment with anastrozole or letrozole, second-line treatment may be either tamoxifen, exemestane, or everolimus and exemestane (NICE technology appraisal [421](#)). Subsequent treatment options also include chemotherapy for some people. Fulvestrant is not recommended for use following anti-oestrogen therapy, as an alternative to aromatase inhibitors (NICE technology appraisal [239](#)), however, it is sometimes used after exemestane and tamoxifen in people who would otherwise receive chemotherapy.

The technology

Palbociclib (Ibrance, Pfizer) is a selective, small-molecule inhibitor of cyclin-dependent kinases 4 and 6, which prevents DNA synthesis by prohibiting progression of the cell cycle from G1 to S phase. Palbociclib is administered orally.

Palbociclib has a marketing authorisation in the UK for the treatment of hormone receptor (HR) positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer: in combination with an aromatase inhibitor; in combination with fulvestrant in women who have received prior endocrine therapy. In pre- or perimenopausal women, the endocrine therapy should be combined with a luteinizing hormone releasing hormone (LHRH) agonist.

Intervention(s)	Palbociclib in combination with fulvestrant
Population(s)	People with hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer who have received prior endocrine therapy.

Comparators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemestane • Everolimus and exemestane • Tamoxifen • Fulvestrant¹ • Chemotherapy (in accordance with NICE guidance CG81)
Outcomes	<p>The outcome measures to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall survival • progression free survival • response rate • adverse effects of treatment • health-related quality of life
Economic analysis	<p>The reference case stipulates that the cost effectiveness of treatments should be expressed in terms of incremental cost per quality-adjusted life year.</p> <p>The reference case stipulates that the time horizon for estimating clinical and cost effectiveness should be sufficiently long to reflect any differences in costs or outcomes between the technologies being compared.</p> <p>Costs will be considered from an NHS and Personal Social Services perspective.</p> <p>The availability of any patient access schemes for the comparator technologies will be taken into account.</p>
Other considerations	<p>Guidance will only be issued in accordance with the marketing authorisation. Where the wording of the therapeutic indication does not include specific treatment combinations, guidance will be issued only in the context of the evidence that has underpinned the marketing authorisation granted by the regulator.</p>
Related NICE recommendations and NICE Pathways	<p>Related technology appraisals: Everolimus with exemestane for treating advanced breast cancer after endocrine therapy (2016) NICE technology appraisal 421. Next review December 2019.</p>

¹ During the scope consultation it was noted that fulvestrant is not routinely available as a second-line treatment.

	<p>Fulvestrant for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer (2011) NICE technology appraisal guidance 239. Review date Nov 2014. Review decision, static list</p> <p>Gemcitabine for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer (2007). NICE technology appraisal 116. Review date, May 2010. Review decision, static list.</p> <p>Appraisals in development:</p> <p>Alpelisib in combination with fulvestrant for treating advanced hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative, PIK3CA-positive breast cancer NICE technology appraisal [ID1412]. Publication date to be confirmed</p> <p>Abemaciclib with fulvestrant for treating advanced hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer after endocrine therapy NICE technology appraisal [ID1339]. Publication date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Ribociclib in combination with fulvestrant for treating advanced hormone-receptor positive, HER2-negative breast cancer NICE technology appraisal [ID1318]. Publication date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Related guidelines:</p> <p>Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment (2009, updated 2017). NICE guideline CG81. Review date 2017.</p> <p>Familial breast cancer: Classification and care of people at risk of familial breast cancer and management of breast cancer and related risks in people with a family history of breast cancer (2013, updated 2017). NICE guideline 164. Next review to be scheduled.</p> <p>Related quality standards:</p> <p>Breast cancer (2011, updated 2016). NICE quality standard 12.</p> <p>Related NICE Pathways:</p> <p>Advanced breast cancer (2017) NICE Pathway</p> <p>Familial breast cancer (2013) NICE Pathway</p>
<p>Related National Policy</p>	<p>NHS England (2016) 'Manual for Prescribed Specialised Services'. Chapter 105, Specialist Cancer services (adults)</p> <p>Department of Health (2016) NHS Outcomes Framework 2016-2017. Domains 1 and 2.</p>

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7. NICE. (2017) [Resource impact report: Palbociclib with an aromatase inhibitor for previously untreated, hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer \(TA495\)](#). Accessed September 2018.