

# Pembrolizumab for treating relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma in people 3 years and over

Information for the public

Published: 1 May 2024

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) is available on the NHS as a possible treatment for relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma in people 3 years and over. It is available for people who:

- have already had at least 2 treatments, 1 of which was brentuximab vedotin, and
- cannot have an autologous stem cell transplant (one that uses a person's own stem cells).

Pembrolizumab should be stopped after 2 years or earlier if:

- you can have a stem cell transplant as a possible cure (using your own stem cells or stem cells from a donor) or
- your condition gets worse.

If you are not eligible for pembrolizumab but are already having 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. See [our webpage on 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 webpage on Hodgkin lymphoma](#) may be a good place to find out more.

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Lymphoma Action](#) (0808 800 5555)
- [Cancer Research UK](#) (0808 800 4040)
- [Macmillan Cancer Support](#) (0808 808 0000)

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.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-5975-4