

Infliximab – RCPCH comments

Children and young people do suffer from psoriasis. Some requiring systemic therapy, and as such should be included in such an appraisal.

Paediatric patients are frequently not covered by NICE technology appraisals as the applying pharmaceutical company does not have data on children and hence does not make the application to include children. This is clearly an issue when treatments could have benefits for children; we hope that this might change with the new paediatric legislation passed by the EU to give patent extension to companies who do trials in children.

One request is that the manufacturers should produce cost comparisons with other products used for psoriasis. As the approved indication is for patients who have failed other therapy, this seems irrelevant. Any comparison with etanercept is also of limited value as the two products do have different mechanisms of action.

There is potential to include the effect of infliximab on those patients with psoriatic arthritis but this may have been judged to be out of the scope of the consultation for this appraisal.