

Quick reference guide

Hormonal therapies for the adjuvant treatment of early oestrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer

1 Guidance

This guidance applies to the use of the aromatase inhibitors anastrozole, exemestane and letrozole, within the marketing authorisations for each drug at the time of this appraisal, for the treatment of early oestrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer; that is:

- anastrozole for primary adjuvant therapy
- exemestane for adjuvant therapy following 2–3 years of adjuvant tamoxifen therapy
- letrozole for primary adjuvant therapy and extended adjuvant therapy following standard tamoxifen therapy.

1.1 The aromatase inhibitors anastrozole, exemestane and letrozole, within their licensed indications, are recommended as options for the adjuvant treatment of early oestrogen-receptor-positive invasive breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

1.2 The choice of treatment should be made after discussion between the responsible clinician and the woman about the risks and benefits of each option. Factors to consider when making the choice include whether the woman has received tamoxifen before, the licensed indications and side-effect profiles of the individual drugs and, in particular, the assessed risk of recurrence.

2 Implementation

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA112).

- Local costing template incorporating costing report to estimate the savings and costs associated with implementation.
- Audit criteria to monitor local practice.

NICE technology appraisal guidance 112

This guidance is written in the following context

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Further information

Quick reference guide

This has been distributed to healthcare professionals working in the NHS in England and Wales (see www.nice.org.uk/TA112distributionlist). It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA112quickrefguide

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1150).

Full guidance

This contains the following sections:

- 1 Guidance
- 2 Clinical need and practice
- 3 The technologies
- 4 Evidence and interpretation
- 5 Implementation
- 6 Recommendations for further research
- 7 Related guidance
- 8 Review of guidance.

The full guidance also gives details of the Appraisal Committee and the sources of evidence considered. It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA112guidance

'Understanding NICE guidance'

Information for patients with early oestrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer and their carers is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA112publicinfo

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1151).

Related NICE guidance

- Improving outcomes in breast cancer – manual update. *NICE cancer service guidance* (2002). Available from www.nice.org.uk/csgbcguidance
- Familial breast cancer: the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care. *NICE clinical guideline* no. 41 (2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/CG041
- Docetaxel for the adjuvant treatment of early node-positive breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no. 109 (2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA109
- Paclitaxel for the adjuvant treatment of early node-positive breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no. 108 (2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA108
- Trastuzumab for the adjuvant treatment of early stage HER2-positive breast cancer. *NICE technology appraisal guidance* no. 107 (2006). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA107

NICE is in the process of developing the following guidance (details available from www.nice.org.uk).

- Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment (publication expected July 2007).
- Early breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment (publication expected July 2007).