

Quick reference guide

Rituximab for the first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

Guidance

- 1 Rituximab in combination with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide is recommended as an option for the first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in people for whom fludarabine in combination with cyclophosphamide is considered appropriate.
- 2 Rituximab in combination with chemotherapy agents other than fludarabine and cyclophosphamide is not recommended for the first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA174).

- Costing tools:
 - costing report to estimate the national savings and costs associated with implementation
 - costing template to estimate the local costs and savings involved.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/TA174

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote:

- N1912 (quick reference guide)
- N1913 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see www.nice.org.uk

Published

- Fludarabine monotherapy for the first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. NICE technology appraisal guidance 119 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA119
- Improving outcomes in haematological cancers. NICE cancer service guidance (2003). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/CSGHO

Under development

- Rituximab for the treatment of relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication expected April 2010).

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in December 2010. Information about the progress of a review will be available at www.nice.org.uk/TA174

This guidance represents the view of NICE, 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. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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