

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Evaluation

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Deuruxolitinib for treating severe alopecia areata [ID6597]

The impact on equality has been assessed during this evaluation according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (draft scope consultation and scoping workshop discussion), and, if so, what are they?

Yes. At consultation, it was suggested that alopecia areata (AA) is more common in those of Asian background and those of lower socioeconomic status and urban location, but referral to secondary care is lower in these lower socioeconomic groups.

In addition, beard hair loss can have some religious implications, e.g. some from the Sikh and Jewish faiths.

It was also suggested that some health-related quality of life measures may not adequately capture the impact of living with health conditions in older people (questions about work, studying, sport) or those who are not in a relationship (question about sexual activity); they may also not capture anxiety and depression across all groups – two parameters that are commonly and negatively influenced by AA. Additionally, they may discriminate against those who are non-native English speakers.

It was also suggested that it needs to be noted that alexithymia, which is considered potentially a form of neurodiversity, has been reported in patients with severe alopecia areata. Therefore, alopecia areata patients may not be able to communicate clearly the impact of their disease or needs. We have to support them with treatment options that are accessible, effective and convenient.

Stakeholder asked to include issues from ritlecitinib appraisal:

- People with alopecia areata may be more affected by the impact of hair loss due to the religious significance of hair.

- Severe alopecia areata can have a particularly high impact on psychosocial health and quality of life for young people.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

The prevalence of a condition cannot be addressed within a technology appraisal. If ritlecitinib is recommended, it will apply equally to all individuals within the recommended population. Geographical disparities in access to treatments for alopecia areata cannot be considered within a technology appraisal.

Where appropriate, the committee will consider the appropriateness of the health related quality of life measures used in the appraisal and whether this adequately captures health-related quality of life in the whole population under consideration.

The committee will consider if its recommendations may disproportionately impact people from Asian and lower socioeconomic backgrounds and suggest amendments to avoid this if necessary.

The technology will be appraised within its marketing authorisation and trial was conducted in adults only.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No.

Approved by Principal Technical Adviser (name): Lizzie Walker

Date: 04/12/2025