

Understanding NICE guidance

Information for people who use NHS services

Bivalirudin for ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This leaflet is about when **bivalirudin** should be used to treat adults with ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) who are having percutaneous coronary intervention in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It is written for adults with STEMI but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe STEMI or percutaneous coronary intervention in detail – your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on page 4.

This may not be the only possible treatment for adults with STEMI who are having percutaneous coronary intervention.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends bivalirudin as a possible treatment for adults with STEMI who are having percutaneous coronary intervention.

Who can have bivalirudin?

You should be able to have bivalirudin if all of the following apply:

- you are an adult with STEMI
- you are having percutaneous coronary intervention
- you are given bivalirudin with aspirin and clopidogrel.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work, and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS. NICE recommended bivalirudin because it works better and costs less than other treatments available on the NHS.

STEMI and percutaneous coronary intervention

ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction (also known as STEMI) is a type of heart attack. A heart attack is caused by narrowing and blockage of the main blood vessel (the coronary artery) that delivers blood to the heart. One of the treatments involves widening of the narrowed coronary artery in a procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention (sometimes called balloon angioplasty or stenting).

Bivalirudin

Bivalirudin is a drug that stops blood clots forming. It is known as an anticoagulant and is given by injection or drip during and up to 4 hours after percutaneous coronary intervention. It is given with two other anticoagulants: aspirin and clopidogrel.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have STEMI, you are having percutaneous coronary intervention, and you and your doctor think that bivalirudin is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 2), you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if you think you are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with STEMI. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- Action Heart, 01384 292233
www.actionheart.com
- British Cardiac Patients Association, 01223 846845
www.bcpa.co.uk
- British Heart Foundation, 0300 330 3311
www.bhf.org.uk
- Blood Pressure Association, 0845 241 0989
www.bpassoc.org.uk
- HEART UK – The Cholesterol Charity, 0845 450 5988
www.heartuk.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. Your local patient advice and liaison service (usually known as 'PALS') may be able to give you more information and support. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE produces guidance (advice) for the NHS about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This leaflet and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA230

You can order printed copies of this leaflet from NICE publications (phone 0845 003 7783 or email publications@nice.org.uk and quote reference N2619). The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on the Browsealoud logo on the NICE website to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this leaflet in their own information about STEMI.