

Pixantrone for multiply relapsed or refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Pixantrone monotherapy is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with multiply relapsed or refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma if:

- they have previously been treated with rituximab and
- they are having third- or fourth-line treatment.

What does this mean for me?

If you have non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma, and your doctor thinks that pixantrone is the right treatment, you should be able to have it on the NHS.

Pixantrone should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued. If you are not eligible for treatment on the NHS as described above, you should be able to

continue having pixantrone until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

Pixantrone was recommended because it is an effective treatment for people with non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma. Although it costs more than other treatments, this was justified by the benefits it provided.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment

Lymphomas are cancers of the lymphatic system, part of the body's immune system. In non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma the B cells, a type of white blood cell produced in the bone marrow, grow and spread abnormally. Multiply relapsed or refractory means the cancer has come back several times or has not responded to treatment, and aggressive means that the cancer grows and spreads quickly, and causes severe symptoms.

Pixantrone (Pixuvri) is a chemotherapy drug that stops cancer cells growing and dividing.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- CancerHelp UK, 0808 800 4040
www.cancerhelp.org.uk
- Lymphoma Association, 0808 808 5555
www.lymphomas.org.uk
- Leukaemia CARE, 0808 8010 444
www.leukaemiacare.org.uk

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

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Accreditation

