

Afatinib for treating locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Afatinib is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer if:

- their cancer tests positive for the epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase (EGFR-TK) mutation and
- they have not had a type of drug called an EGFR-TK inhibitor before.

What does this mean for me?

If you have locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer as described above and your doctor thinks that afatinib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Afatinib should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

Afatinib was recommended because it works as well and costs about the same as other treatments available on the NHS.

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

Cancer affecting the lungs is grouped into 2 main types depending on how it looks under the microscope: small-cell lung cancer and non-small-cell-lung cancer.

Lung cancer tissue can be tested to check whether the cells have EGFR-TK mutations (changes). If they do, the cancer is 'EGFR-TK mutation-positive'. The EGFR-TK mutations make the cancer more likely to respond to drugs that block the EGFR (called EGFR-TK inhibitors).

Cancer that is described as being locally advanced or metastatic has spread to the surrounding tissues or other parts of the body.

Afatinib (also known as Giotrif) is an anticancer drug. It works by stopping the cancer growing.

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

Sources of advice and support

- British Lung Foundation, 0300 003 0555, www.blf.org.uk
- CancerHelp UK, 0808 800 4040, www.cancerhelp.org.uk (the patient information website of Cancer Research UK)
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0800 808 0000, www.macmillan.org.uk
- Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, 0800 358 7200, www.roycastle.org

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Accreditation

