

Axitinib for treating advanced renal cell carcinoma after failure of a previous treatment

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Axitinib (also called Inlyta) is recommended. It is a possible treatment for adults with advanced renal cell carcinoma when drugs called tyrosine kinase inhibitors or cytokines have not worked.

What does this mean for me?

If you have advanced renal cell carcinoma and your doctor thinks that axitinib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS if treatment with a type of tyrosine kinase inhibitor called sunitinib or a cytokine has not worked. Axitinib should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

You may be able to have axitinib treatment on the NHS if you have had a different type of tyrosine kinase inhibitor first (that is, not sunitinib) as long as your doctor gets your written consent to have it and the NHS within your area agrees to provide it.

Why has NICE said this?

Axitinib was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

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

Renal cell carcinoma is a kidney cancer that starts in cells lining the small tubes that help to make urine. In advanced disease, the tumour has spread inside the kidney, and may have spread outside the kidney.

Axitinib (also called Inlyta) is one of a group of drugs called tyrosine kinase inhibitors, which slow or stop the growth and spread of cancer cells. Cytokines help the immune system to attack cancer cells.

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

Sources of advice and support

- James Whale Fund for Kidney Cancer, 0330 111 2333, www.jameswhalefund.org
- Kidney Cancer UK, 0844 870 7054, www.kcuk.org
- Kidney Research UK, 0845 300 1499, www.kidneyresearchuk.org
- National Kidney Federation, 0845 601 0209, www.kidney.org.uk

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Accreditation

