

Obinutuzumab in combination with chlorambucil for untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Obinutuzumab (Gazyvaro), given with a drug called chlorambucil, is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia only if:

- they have other conditions that make full-dose fludarabine unsuitable for them and
- bendamustine is not suitable for them.

What does this mean for me?

If you have chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, and your doctor thinks that obinutuzumab (with chlorambucil) is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Obinutuzumab should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being

issued.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking obinutuzumab (with chlorambucil) until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

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

Obinutuzumab (with chlorambucil) was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

The condition and the treatment

Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, which is also known as CLL, is a cancer of a type of white blood cell (called the B lymphocytes). The cancerous lymphocytes multiply in an uncontrolled way and stop other blood cells working properly.

Obinutuzumab (Gazyvaro) binds to the surface of lymphocytes, causing them to be destroyed. It is given with a drug called chlorambucil to slow down the progress of the disease.

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

Sources of advice and support

- Leukaemia Care, 08088 010 444, www.leukaemiacare.org.uk
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000, www.macmillan.org.uk
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Support Association, 0800 977 4396, www.clisupport.org.uk
- Lymphoma Association, 0808 808 5555, www.lymphoma.org.uk

- Cancer Research UK Patient Information (previously CancerHelp UK), 0808 800 4040, www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer

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Accreditation

