Ramucirumab for treating advanced gastric cancer or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma previously treated with chemotherapy

Information for the public
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www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Ramucirumab (Cyramza) is not recommended for advanced gastric cancer or gastro–oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma that has already been treated with chemotherapy.

What does this mean for me?

If you are already taking ramucirumab for advanced gastric cancer or gastro–oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma, you should be able to continue taking it 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. It applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life.

Ramucirumab does not provide enough benefit to patients to justify its high cost and did not qualify for the 'special considerations', so it was not recommended.

The conditions and the treatment

Gastric cancer is another name for cancer of the stomach. Advanced gastric cancer means that it has spread to nearby tissues, or has come back in another part of the body some time after you were first treated.

Gastro–oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma is cancer that develops at the point where your food pipe (oesophagus) joins your stomach.

Ramucirumab is a type of therapy called a monoclonal antibody, that may stop the cancer growing.

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

Sources of advice and support

- The Oesophageal Patients Association, 0121 704 9860, www.opa.org.uk

- Cancer Research UK, 0808 800 4040, www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer

- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000, www.macmillan.org.uk

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Accreditation