

Ruxolitinib for treating disease-related splenomegaly or symptoms in adults with myelofibrosis

Information for the public
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What has NICE said?

Ruxolitinib (Jakavi) is recommended as a possible treatment for treating disease-related splenomegaly or symptoms in adults with primary myelofibrosis (also known as chronic idiopathic myelofibrosis), post polycythaemia vera myelofibrosis or post essential thrombocythaemia myelofibrosis, only:

- if they have intermediate-2 or high-risk disease.

What does this mean for me?

If you have an enlarged spleen or symptoms caused by one of these types of myelofibrosis, and your doctor thinks that ruxolitinib is the right treatment, you should be

able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

If you are not eligible for treatment you should be able to continue taking ruxolitinib 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.

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

The condition and the treatment

Myelofibrosis is a rare condition affecting bone marrow. Bone marrow is where blood cells are made. In myelofibrosis scar tissue builds up inside the bone marrow and blood cells aren't made properly. To make up for this other parts of the body, such as the spleen, begin to make blood cells. When the spleen makes blood cells, it grows in size and this is called splenomegaly. This can cause discomfort in the tummy and feeling full when eating.

Ruxolitinib works by blocking a gene that is important in the production of blood cells. It is taken as a tablet.

Sources of advice and support

- [Leukaemia CARE](#), 08088 101 444
- [Leukaemia Cancer Society](#), 0208 374 4821
- [Bloodwise](#) (previously Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research), 0207 504 2200
- [MPN Voice](#) (previously MPD Voice), 0793 468 9354
- [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), 0808 808 0000
- [Cancer Research UK Patient Information](#) (previously CancerHelp UK), 0808 800 4040

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Accreditation

