

# Bimekizumab for treating active ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](https://www.nice.org.uk)

Bimekizumab (Bimzelx) is available on the NHS as a possible treatment in adults:

- with active ankylosing spondylitis that is not tolerated or controlled well enough with conventional treatments (physiotherapy followed by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs]), or
- with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with inflammation (shown by a blood test or MRI) that is not tolerated or controlled well enough with NSAIDs, and
- the conditions have a Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index score of 4 units or more and a spinal visual analogue scale of 4 cm or more, and
- only if tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors are not suitable or have not worked well enough.

How well bimekizumab is working should be checked from 16 weeks after you have started it. It should be stopped if your condition does not improve enough.

When assessing how axial spondylarthritis affects your quality of life, healthcare professionals should take into account any disabilities or difficulties in communicating you might have.

If you are not eligible for bimekizumab but are already having it, you should be able to continue until you and your doctor decide when best to stop.

## Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. See [our webpage on making decisions about your care](#).

## Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other treatments?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day life?
- What happens if the treatment does not work?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment? Are there other treatments available?

## Information and support

The [NHS webpage on ankylosing spondylitis](#) may be a good place to find out more.

The [National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society](#) (020 8741 1515) can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

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