

Dear Bijal

The National Collaborating Centre for Cancer is a commentator on the above appraisal on behalf of the Advanced Breast Cancer GDG. In response to the ACD they have the following comments to make:

*“The GDG regrets that even under the terms of the access scheme proposed by GSK lapatinib proves not to be cost effective. The GDG supports the draft recommendations.*

*The GDG would be most concerned if the Appraisal Committee were to accept the use of trastuzumab on disease progression as a comparator, as to do so would be implicitly to endorse that application of this high cost intervention without first performing a cost effectiveness analysis. To do so would also run counter to the recommendations made by the GDG in this area. Evidence of clinical effectiveness of the second line use of trastuzumab in combination with chemotherapy in the various reports by von Minckwitz et al became available only towards the end of the guideline preparation process, so that any cost effectiveness analysis was not possible. The GDG strongly believes such an evaluation should be performed urgently, and would support subsequent evaluation in the STA process. We do not think that such an expensive treatment strategy should be undertaken in the NHS without such an evaluation.”*

Best wishes,

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