

Dabrafenib for treating unresectable or metastatic BRAF V600 mutation-positive melanoma

Information for the public
Published: 1 October 2014

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What has NICE said?

Dabrafenib (also known as Tafinlar) is recommended. This drug is a possible treatment for people with melanoma that has spread, can't be removed by surgery and is BRAF V600 mutation-positive.

What does this mean for me?

If you have melanoma, and your doctor thinks that dabrafenib is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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.

Dabrafenib was recommended because it works as well other treatments available on the NHS, and costs about the same.

The condition and the treatment

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer. It is known as unresectable when it can't be completely removed by surgery, and metastatic if it has spread to other parts of the body. One type of melanoma has a change in the cells called the 'BRAF V600 mutation'. This makes it produce too much BRAF protein, and this protein makes the cancer cells grow and divide.

Dabrafenib (also known as Tafinlar) is a drug that works by stopping cells producing the BRAF protein. It can slow down the growth of the cancer. Dabrafenib is only for melanoma that has been tested and found to have the BRAF V600 mutation.

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

Sources of advice and support

- Cancer Research UK Patient Information, 0808 800 4040
www.cruk.org/about-cancer
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000
www.macmillan.org.uk
- Melanoma UK, 0808 171 2455
www.melanomauk.org.uk
- Skcin - Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity
www.skcin.org

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ISBN 978-1-4731-0806-6

Accreditation

