

Lenalidomide for treating myelodysplastic syndromes associated with an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Lenalidomide (also known as Revlimid) is recommended. This drug is a possible treatment for people with transfusion-dependent anaemia, caused by low- or intermediate-1 risk myelodysplastic syndromes associated with an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality, when other treatments haven't worked well enough.

What does this mean for me?

If you have transfusion-dependent anaemia, caused by low- or intermediate-1 risk myelodysplastic syndromes associated with an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic

abnormality and your doctor thinks that lenalidomide is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

Why has NICE said this?

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

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment

Low- or intermediate-1 risk myelodysplastic syndromes are blood-related conditions in which not enough of a certain type of blood cell is produced. Some people with myelodysplastic syndrome have a specific genetic mutation, called an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality. People with myelodysplastic syndromes associated with an isolated deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality can develop severe anaemia and need regular blood transfusions. Anaemia is a condition in which a person doesn't have enough red cells in their blood to carry oxygen around the body.

Lenalidomide (also known as Revlimid) is a drug that affects how your immune system works.

Sources of advice and support

- CancerHelp UK - the patient information website of Cancer Research UK, 0808 800 4040, www.cancerhelp.org.uk
- Leukaemia CARE, 08088 010 444, www.leukaemiacare.org.uk
- MDS UK Patient Support Group, 020 7733 7558, www.mdspatientsupport.org.uk
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000, www.macmillan.org.uk

- Rarer Cancers Foundation, 0800 334 5551, www.rarercancers.org.uk

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Accreditation

