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RECOMMENDATION ON COMBINATION THERAPY WITH ISATUXIMAB, CARFILZOMIB AND DEXAMETHASONE (IKD) IN THE TREATMENT OF RELAPSED MULTIPLE MYELOMA

At its meeting of 4 February 2022, the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland) adopted a recommendation on combination therapy with isatuximab, carfilzomib and dexamethasone (IKd) in the treatment of relapsed multiple myeloma.

According to the recommendation, combination therapy with isatuximab, carfilzomib and dexamethasone (IKd) is included of the national service choices in healthcare for the treatment of relapsed multiple myeloma. The requirement is that the marketing authorisation holder and the buyer agree on a price significantly lower than the public wholesale price.

Combination therapy with isatuximab, carfilzomib and dexamethasone (IKd) is indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma in adult patients who have received at least one prior therapy.

Efficacy has been demonstrated based on one study. In the IKEMA study, patients treated with the IKd combination therapy had prolonged progression-free survival (PFS) and statistically significantly fewer progression-related events compared to those treated with carfilzomib and dexamethasone alone. The effect on overall survival could not yet be assessed. Comparison with other treatment options is lacking. This brings uncertainty to the assessment of the therapeutic value and status of IKd combination therapy in the current treatment practice.

The costs of treatment at the public wholesale price are disproportionate to the benefits to be gained. The costs of IKd treatment per patient are approximately EUR 330,000–355,000 per year at list prices. It is estimated that 29 patients could receive IKd combination therapy on an annual basis, but the number of patients treated may be higher.

Multiple myeloma is a cancer of the plasma cells in the blood and bone marrow where malignant plasma cells begin to multiply in the bone marrow. With current treatments, myeloma is an incurable disease where a possible recovery or remission phase is followed by relapse. The majority of patients are elderly, and the average life expectancy after diagnosis is now between 7 and 8 years. In 2019, 365 new cases of myeloma and 280 deaths from myeloma were reported.

This is a summary of a recommendation adopted by the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland). The actual recommendation and the related background material are available in Finnish on the website of COHERE Finland under [Recommendations](#).

The summary of the recommendation is also available in [Swedish](#) and [Finnish](#) on the website.

The Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland) works in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and its task is to issue recommendations on services that should be included in the range of public health services. Further information about service choices in healthcare is available on [the COHERE Finland website](#).