

RECOMMENDATION ON SACITUZUMAB GOVITECAN IN TREATMENT OF UNRESECTABLE OR METASTATIC TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

At its meeting of 15 June 2022, the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland) adopted a recommendation on sacituzumab govitecan in treatment of unresectable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer

COHERE Finland recommends that sacituzumab govitecan be included in the range of public health services for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer in adults with good performance status (ECOG 0–1) who have received two or more prior systemic treatments for breast cancer, at least one of which has been administered for the treatment of advanced disease. Treatment should be targeted at patients with no or stable brain metastases. The requirement is that the marketing authorisation holder and the buyer agree on a price significantly lower than the public wholesale price.

Sacituzumab govitecan is intended for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer in adults who have received two or more prior systemic treatments, at least one of which has been administered for the treatment of advanced disease.

The research evidence is based on a phase III, randomised, open-label, ASCENT study comparing the efficacy and safety of sacituzumab govitecan (n = 235) to a chemotherapy of the physician's choice (n = 233) in patients with good performance status. According to the ASCENT study, in patients with unresectable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer, sacituzumab govitecan prolonged the median progression-free survival by approximately 4 months and the median overall survival by slightly over 5 months compared to comparator chemotherapy. In the view of COHERE Finland, the effect of treatment on progression-free survival and overall survival is significant. Efficacy has been demonstrated in patients with good performance status and no brain metastases.

A higher incidence of adverse reactions was observed with sacituzumab govitecan than with the chemotherapeutic agents used. In particular, neutropenia and diarrhoea induced by sacituzumab govitecan require attention and monitoring during treatment.

The individual per-patient cost of medication and administration of sacituzumab govitecan at list prices is approximately EUR 72,000 with a duration of treatment of 7 months. The number of eligible patients is estimated to be 70–80 per year. Treatment with sacituzumab govitecan costs approximately EUR 4.9–5.6 million more per year at wholesale prices than the comparator treatment.

In triple-negative breast cancer, there are no oestrogen or progesterone receptors or HER2 growth factor replication in the cancer cells. Advanced triple-negative breast cancer is an incurable disease that reduces the quality of life. In 2019, 5,136 new cases of breast cancer and 892 deaths related to breast cancer were recorded in Finland. Approximately 15–20% of breast cancers are triple-negative breast cancers.

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](#).