SUMMARY OF COHERE FINLAND'S RECOMMENDATION ON LONCASTUXIMAB TESIRINE IN THE TREATMENT OF DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA OR HIGH-GRADE B-CELL LYMPHOMA

At its meeting of 19 December 2023, the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland) adopted a recommendation on loncastuximab tesirine in the treatment of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma or high-grade B-cell lymphoma.

Loncastuximab tesirine is not part of the national range of services (as a monotherapy) in the treatment of relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma or high-grade B-cell lymphoma in adult patients who have already been treated in two or more lines of therapy. In the view of COHERE Finland, the research evidence involves significant uncertainty. There is insufficient evidence to assess the clinical relevance of the therapy.

Loncastuximab tesirine is intended as a monotherapy for the treatment of relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma or high-grade B-cell lymphoma in adult patients who have already been treated in two or more lines of therapy.

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is the most common non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Between 2014 and 2020, approximately 600–700 new DLBCL cases were diagnosed annually in Finland. High-grade B-cell lymphoma (HGBL) is an aggressive subtype of DLBCL that occurs in an estimated 4–7% of DLBCL cases. The prognosis of relapsed or refractory DLBCL is poor.

Loncastuximab tesirine is a combination of two drugs: an antibody and an alkylating agent. Loncastuximab tesirine is administered intravenously every three weeks, and the treatment is continued until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

In the marketing authorisation study, approximately half of the patients responded to treatment, and the median progression-free survival was approximately 5 months. A quarter of the

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patients had a complete response to treatment, and slightly under a third of them were disease-free at the 2-year follow-up. In the view of COHERE Finland, there was significant uncertainty associated with the research evidence, and the therapeutic benefit of loncastuximab tesirine could not be assessed on its basis. In addition, data on patients treated in real life shows that the proportion of patients with a complete response to treatment in clinical care is lower than in the marketing authorisation study.

Almost all patients included in the marketing authorisation studies experienced some degree of adverse event and slightly under half experienced a serious adverse event during treatment. The most common serious adverse event was febrile neutropenia (low levels of neutrophils in the blood).

According to the estimate of the Finnish Medicines Agency (Fimea), the medicinal product costs per patient of loncastuximab tesirine would be approximately EUR 78,800 at the public wholesale price, which is approximately EUR 18,800 more than with reference treatment. It is estimated that there are about nine patients a year eligible for treatment in Finland.

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 English.

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.

Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriö

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