

New oncology reimbursements in Belgium

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Overview of Belgian reimbursement news
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Erythropoietins

Erythropoietins can be reimbursed in adult patients being treated with anaemia due to platinum-based chemotherapy after exclusion of other causes of anaemia or in adult patients with anaemia due to other chemotherapy regimens when the haemoglobin is lower than 11 g/dl and after exclusion of other causes of anaemia. Excluded are patients who are treated with a curative intent. The haemoglobin value aimed at should not exceed 12 g/dl. Reimbursement can be granted for a maximum of two episodes in every 12 months period and is restricted to the time during chemotherapy until four weeks after the completion of chemotherapy.

Vemurafenib, Zelboraf®

Zelboraf® is reimbursed for the treatment of adult patients with advanced metastatic or unresectable

melanoma which is BRAFV600-mutant as demonstrated by a validated test, performed at a laboratory which can guarantee the validity of the test. A multidisciplinary committee should agree with the decision to treat with Zelboraf®. Tumour evaluation is mandatory every eight weeks and the treatment should be stopped in case of tumour progression according to the RECIST criteria version 1.1.

Gefitinib, Iressa®

The reimbursement conditions for Iressa® were slightly modified. As before, Iressa® is reimbursed as monotherapy for patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer and an activating EGFR-TK mutation. Previously, medical imaging to assess disease progression was required every three months. However, this has been adjusted to six months.

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Research Corner

A new section reporting results of clinical or translational studies that have a particular relevance to Belgian patients and have been performed in Belgian cohorts.

These articles will go through independent peer review just as the other content of the BJMO, and will be evaluated on scientific quality, originality and intellectual independence. Only one such article at the most will be published in each issue and therefore acceptance will be competitive based on quality criteria.