

Clinical Expert Summary **Vandetanib (Caprelsa[®]▼) 100 mg and 300 mg film-coated tablets**

Vandetanib (Caprelsa[®]▼) is indicated for the treatment of aggressive and symptomatic medullary thyroid cancer in patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic disease. For patients in whom *Rearranged during Transfection (RET)* mutation is not known or is negative, a possible lower benefit should be taken into account before individual treatment decision.

1. Existing guidelines

Reference was made to the British Thyroid Association Thyroid Cancer Guidelines which are currently being updated and are available as a draft for public consultation¹.

2. Disease prevalence/incidence

The clinical expert stated that patients from South East and South West Wales (total population of 2.3 million) were referred to Velindre Cancer Centre. The clinical expert estimated that between two and five patients annually would be potentially eligible for tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) therapy (vandetanib or cabozantinib).

3. Current treatment options

The expert highlighted that palliative chemotherapy is not recommended due to the very poor response rate. A small proportion of patients will have disease that has sufficient uptake of meta-iodobenzylguanidine (mIBG) on diagnostic imaging to warrant high dose radiolabelled therapy, although no suitable patients have been identified at Velindre Cancer Centre for several years. It was stated that the majority of patients are mIBG-negative and hence this treatment is not appropriate. Outside the context of clinical trials offering access to TKI therapies, it was stated that patients are managed with best supportive care.

4. Unmet needs

It was stated that patients with symptomatic metastatic medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) have very limited systemic oncological therapeutic options and the vast majority are managed with best supportive care for symptom management.

5. Knowledge of product in given indication

The clinical expert stated that they were the principal investigator at their centre for a study assessing the safety and efficacy of vandetanib in patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic MTC with progressive or symptomatic disease. Their preference would be to use a TKI in those patients with metastatic MTC who are of good performance status (WHO PS 0–2) and who have no contraindications to use. Additionally, it might be suitable for a small proportion of patients with locally advanced unresectable disease who have progressive disease or symptoms not amenable to local therapies. It was stated that TKIs are not suitable for all patients due to their toxicity profile; some patients will be intolerant and will have to discontinue therapy whilst others may need drug holidays and dose reductions.

It should be noted that the expert involved in compiling this response declared a personal specific interest in relation to vandetanib (Caprelsa[®]▼) for the indication under consideration.

REFERENCES

- 1 British Thyroid Association. Guidelines for the management of thyroid cancer: third edition draft for public consultation. Feb 2014. Available at: http://www.british-thyroid-association.org/Guidelines/Docs/BTA_DTC_guidelines.pdf. Accessed May 2014.