

23-8-2010

Pharmacoeconomic report on alitretinoïne (Toctino®) for the treatment of severe chronic hand eczema that does not respond sufficiently to local treatment with powerful corticosteroids

English Summary

The Medicinal Products Reimbursement Committee (CFH) has approved the pharmacoeconomic report assessing the cost-effectiveness of alitretinoïn (Toctino®) for the treatment of severe chronic hand eczema. The committee reached the following conclusions:

Economic Evaluation

The manufacturer developed a Markov model for the economic evaluation. Based on clinical study data, the model simulated the course of the disease and its treatment in a cohort of 100 patients.

Comparator

Alitretinoïn was compared with 'best supportive care'.

Main Clinical Assumptions

- patients stop treatment as soon as they reach remission
- patients can experience 1 adverse event per 4-week Markov cycle.
- patients that do not reach the remission state after 24 weeks are in the refractory state and receive no further treatment.
- all patients relapse 24 weeks after the end of treatment.
- patients relapse to the 'severe' or 'moderate' CHE state.
- patients that do not respond within 12 weeks of treatment have entered the 'refractory' state.
- once in the 'refractory' state, patients remain there and receive no further treatment.

Effects

The treatment effects are measured in quality-adjusted life-years (QALY). Utilities were estimated by converting PGA scores to Dermatological Life-Quality Index scores, and mapping these to EQ-5D utilities. Utility loss due to side effects was not included in the model. The manufacturer reports a health gain of 0.19 QALY per patient compared to 'best supportive care'.

Costs

Only direct medical costs were included in the analysis. Over a three-year time horizon, the average incremental costs per patient amounted to €4,520 compared to 'best supportive care'.

Cost-effectiveness

The manufacturer reports an incremental cost-utility ratio (ICUR) of €24,413 per QALY compared to 'best supportive care'.

Conclusion

The manufacturer claims that alitretinoïn is a cost-effective intervention for the treatment of severe chronic hand eczema.

The Medicinal Products Reimbursement Committee (CFH) concludes that the cost-effectiveness of alitretinoïn for the treatment of severe chronic hand eczema has been insufficiently substantiated.

The CFH is uncomfortable with the utilities used and notes that:

- The validity of the applied method for conversion of PGA scores to QALY's has been insufficiently substantiated.
- The expected consumption and the indirect non-medical costs have been insufficiently substantiated.
- The assumptions underlying the model have been insufficiently substantiated.
- The impact of the uncertainties surrounding the efficacy estimates and the impact of important modelling assumptions have not been sufficiently addressed in the sensitivity analysis.

*The original text of the summary of this **CFH-report** was in Dutch. Although great care was taken in translating the text from Dutch to English, the translation may nevertheless have*

resulted in discrepancies. Rights may only be derived on the basis of the Dutch version of the summary of the CFH-report.

Furthermore, CVZ points out that only the summary of this report was translated. A proper understanding of all relevant considerations and facts would require familiarity with the Dutch version of this report, including all appendices.