NHS
Pan Mersey
Area Prescribing Committee

UPADACITINIB prolonged-release tablets (RINVOQ® ▼) for treating moderate rheumatoid arthritis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of UPADACITINIB prolonged-release tablets (RINVOQ® ▼), by specialists only, for treating moderate rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with NICE TA744.

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NICE technology appraisal (TA) 744[1] recommends upadacitinib, with methotrexate, as an option for treating active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in adults whose disease has responded inadequately to intensive therapy with 2 or more conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), only if:

- disease is moderate (a disease activity score [DAS28] of 3.2 to 5.1) **and**
- the company provides upadacitinib according to the commercial arrangement.

Upadacitinib can be used as monotherapy when methotrexate is contraindicated or if people cannot tolerate it, when the above criteria are met.

If more than one treatment is suitable, start treatment with the least expensive drug (taking into account administration costs, dose needed and product price per dose). This may vary because of differences in how the drugs are used and treatment schedules.

Continue treatment only if there is a moderate response measured using European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) criteria at 6 months after starting therapy. If this initial response is not maintained, stop treatment. [1]

Prescribing and monitoring of therapy must be retained by a specialist in the management of RA.

NICE does not expect this guidance to have a significant impact on resources; that is, the resource impact of implementing the recommendations in England will be less than £5 million per year (or approximately £9,000 per 100,000 population). This is because upadacitinib is a further treatment option and the overall cost of treatment will be similar to current treatment options.

For use in severe RA, see the separate Pan Mersey APC policy statement:

- UPADACITINIB prolonged-release tablets (RINVOQ® ▼) for treating severe rheumatoid arthritis.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Technology Appraisal 744; Upadacitinib for previously treated moderate active rheumatoid arthritis, 10 November 2021. Accessed 10 November 2021.

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.