

Plain English Summary

Ciclosporin eye drops for treating severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis

What does the guidance say?

Ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops are not recommended for government funding for patients with severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis.

Why were ciclosporin eye drops not recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops were not recommended for funding for treating severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis as their benefit for this condition was uncertain and does not justify its cost. If you need ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops for severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What is severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis?

Severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis is a recurrent allergic reaction that affects the clear outer surface of the eye known as the cornea, and the clear tissue that covers the inside of the eyelids known as the conjunctiva. Usually both eyes are affected. It is more common in children and young adults and occurs more frequently in hot and dry environments. Symptoms typically appear seasonally and can include eye pain, itching, redness, blurred vision and sensitivity to light.

What is ciclosporin?

Ciclosporin belongs to a group of medicines known as immunomodulators which help to reduce inflammation. Ciclosporin eye drops contain a mixture of oil and water, which helps them be absorbed into the eye.

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Is this the right treatment for me?

There are different types of treatments available for severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis. Your doctor may recommend you have ciclosporin 0.1% eye drops if other drugs cannot adequately control your condition. Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options.

Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
- How well does it work compared to other treatments?
- What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
- How much does the treatment cost?
- How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
- What happens if the treatment stops working?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment?

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This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

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