

Plain English Summary

Daratumumab for treating light chain amyloidosis

What does the guidance say?

Daratumumab used in combination with bortezomib, cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone is not recommended for inclusion on the MOH List of Subsidised Drugs for government subsidy for patients with newly diagnosed light chain amyloidosis who have not had treatment before.

Why was it not recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Daratumumab combination treatment was not recommended for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost. If you need daratumumab combination treatment for light chain amyloidosis, 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 light chain amyloidosis?

Light chain amyloidosis occurs when abnormal antibodies called “light chain proteins” build up throughout the body. Normally, plasma cells in the bone marrow produce antibodies to fight infections. When the plasma cells grow uncontrollably, they produce too many abnormal light chain proteins which circulate in the blood, stick together and form deposits in organs.

Over time without treatment, this condition can cause damage to organs such as the heart, kidney, liver, digestive tract, and nervous system. Symptoms of light chain amyloidosis develop slowly and depend on which organs are affected. Light chain amyloidosis may be associated with blood and bone marrow cancers such as lymphoma or multiple myeloma. Approximately 44 patients are diagnosed with light chain amyloidosis each year in Singapore.

What is daratumumab?

Daratumumab belongs to a group of medicines called monoclonal antibodies. It attaches to a protein called CD38 on the surface of plasma cells and helps the body’s immune system identify and destroy them. It is given as an injection under the skin in combination with other medicines called bortezomib, cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone to treat newly diagnosed light chain amyloidosis.

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Is this the right treatment for me?

There are different types of treatments available for newly diagnosed light chain amyloidosis. Your doctor may recommend you have daratumumab 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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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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