



## NewTherapiesSubgroup



Date of Original Recommendation: December 2011

Date of Re-review: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### **Degarelix (Firmagon®▼) subcutaneous injection for the treatment of hormone dependent advanced prostate cancer.**

The Interface Prescribing and New Therapies Subgroup (IPNTS) discussed the above drug at a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:\*

The Interface Prescribing & New Therapies Subgroup of the GMMM considered the use of degarelix for the treatment of patients with advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer.

**The group does not recommend the routine use of degarelix in the above indication. However it may be a valuable treatment option in those patients who are particularly vulnerable to the clinical effects of a testosterone flare.**

These patients may include those:

- (a) At risk of neurological compromise due to metastases,
- (b) With urethral or bladder outlet obstruction due to local encroachment or metastatic disease, or
- (c) With severe bone pain from skeletal metastases persisting on narcotic analgesia.

The group noted that clinical trial data shows that degarelix is of comparable efficacy to leuprolide (a LHRH agonist) with similar side effects.

Degarelix costs £1683 per patient per year, however currently a 30% discount scheme is available reducing its costs to £1178 per patient per year. Goserelin + 4 weeks 50mg bicalutamide costs £852 per patient per year<sup>1</sup>.

According to set criteria was degarelix deemed to be a low priority for funding.

<sup>1</sup>prices correct at time of publication

Review date: November 2014

\* Unless superseded by NICE guidance or substantial and significant new evidence becomes available.

▼ Newly marketed drugs and vaccines are intensively monitored for a minimum of two years, in order to confirm the risk / benefit profile of the product. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report all suspected adverse drug reactions regardless of the severity of the reaction.

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