



May 2015

Edoxaban (Lixiana[®]▼) for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF).

The New Therapies Subgroup discussed the above at its meeting on 19th May 2015. The recommendation of this subgroup is as follows:*

The New Therapies Subgroup of the GMMM considered the use of edoxaban for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF).

The group does not recommend the use of edoxaban over existing more established therapies.

In the main clinical trial, the licensed edoxaban regimen was non-inferior to warfarin, although there was a trend towards less favourable outcomes in patients with normal renal function. Bleeding rates appear to be lower than for warfarin; however as with other Novel Oral Anticoagulant Drugs (NOACs) there is no readily available antidote. There are currently no trials directly comparing edoxaban with any other NOACs however other NOACs have a less complex relationship with renal function as well as greater clinical experience and these remain the preferred option alongside warfarin.

Edoxaban is priced at £58.80 for 28 tablets which is the same list price as rivaroxaban but cheaper than dabigatran and apixaban. All NOACs are more expensive than warfarin.

According to set criteria edoxaban was found to be a low priority for funding

Review date: May 2017

* Unless superseded by NICE guidance or substantial and significant new evidence becomes available.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 their risk / benefit profile of the product. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report all suspected adverse drug reactions regardless of the severity of the reaction.

Further information / commissioning implications for CCGs

Prescribing of Newer Oral Anticoagulant agents is a significant driver of primary care prescribing growth. As in many therapeutic areas, considerable variation is noticeable.

Recommendation

Since review by the New Therapies Subgroup, the List price for edoxaban has become available: £58.80 for 28 tablets. Thus they are the same list price as the other once-daily NOAC, rivaroxaban, and therefore slightly cheaper than those for the twice daily drugs apixaban and dabigatran whose equivalent 28 day prices are both £61.50. These prices take no account of rebate arrangements. It is not currently known if there will be a primary Care Rebate Scheme for edoxaban.

The Summary of Product Characteristics¹ uniquely comes with some “risk materials” including a *Prescriber Guide*.² Therein; the abbreviated prescribing information also states “*A trend towards decreasing efficacy with increasing creatinine clearance was observed for edoxaban compared to well-managed warfarin. Edoxaban should only be used in patients with NVAf and high creatinine clearance after a careful benefit risk evaluation*”.

The drug is on NICE’s agenda for Technology Appraisals for both of its licensed indications: DVT and PE due October 2015 but there is currently no date for its evaluation in non-valvular atrial fibrillation. It is difficult to foresee negative NICE guidance given that the other NOACs have positive NICE guidance for both of these indications.

Formulary and Interface considerations

With no positive NICE guidance to support it, this drug will not be included in the Formulary.

NOACs have been assessed by the Interface Prescribing Subgroup and are already green.

Summary of impact for Acute Trusts

No special impact; other NOACs are already available.

Summary of impact for Mental Health Trusts

None

Overall summary

A further treatment option will continue to focus attention in this therapeutic area. It is already showing significant growth but correct targeting of these drugs in patients with atrial fibrillation yields long term savings through stroke reduction. With other, more established NOACs already available, the advantage of once daily administration may be offset by the requirement to pay detailed attention to issues regarding renal function. This drug is a low priority for funding and there are no commissioning implications arising from this additional treatment option.

The drug is now licensed in the UK with a Summary of Product Characteristics available on the Electronic Medicines Compendium website.

References

1. e.g. Edoxaban 60mg film coated tablets [Lixiana®] Summary of Product Characteristics. <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/30506> accessed 7/7/15
2. Lixiana® (edoxaban) Prescriber Guide. <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/RMM.226.pdf> accessed 7/7/15