



The bone & soft tissue cancer charity

Olaratumab

What is olaratumab?

Olaratumab is a new treatment for advanced soft tissue sarcoma. It is sometimes called by its brand name, Lartruvo. Olaratumab is a monoclonal antibody. Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that are made in the laboratory. They bind with a substance in the cancer cell and block signals that tell the cancer to grow. Olaratumab is used alongside chemotherapy drug called doxorubicin.

Which sarcoma patients will benefit from this treatment?

Olaratumab is not suitable for all sarcoma patients. You will be offered olaratumab if you meet the criteria below:

- You are an adult
- You have advanced soft tissue sarcoma that it is not possible to remove with surgery or sarcoma that has spread to other parts of your body
- You can be treated using the chemotherapy drug doxorubicin
- You have not yet been treated with doxorubicin
- Olaratumab is for patients who have **not** had chemotherapy for their advanced sarcoma
- You are otherwise of good health and able to perform most activities of daily living

Your treating team will decide whether olaratumab is the right treatment for you.

How is olaratumab given?

Olaratumab is given intravenously. This means having treatment into a vein. You will be given premedication 30 minutes before your treatment. Treatment is given through a line. This can be a thin tube that is inserted into a vein in your arm

which can be removed on the day you have your treatment (Venflon). Sometimes a thin tube is inserted into a vein in your chest (central line) or into a vein at the crease of your elbow (PICC line) these lines stay in throughout the treatment. The drug is then injected into the line so it can reach your bloodstream. The treatment takes about 60 minutes.

What are the benefits of this treatment?

Olaratumab aims to:

- Help manage symptoms
- Increase life expectancy
- Improve quality of life

Are there any side effects of this treatment?

Your treating team will discuss which side effects you are most likely to experience. The most common side effects of taking olaratumab and doxorubicin are:

- Nausea
- Tiredness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain
- Weak and aching muscles
- Hair loss
- Headache

If you are in discomfort or experience any of the side effects listed above from your treatment speak to your clinical nurse specialist. They can help you manage your symptoms and make you more comfortable during your treatment.

During olaratumab treatment you are also at risk of developing neutropenia, meaning you have a low number of neutrophils. These are a type of white blood cell in your blood that fight infections. If you have neutropenia you are more likely to get infections. The lower your neutrophil levels the more at risk you are to infection. Contact your Clinical Nurse Specialist if you have a temperature over 38°C as this may be a sign you are neutropenic.

What happens if I don't respond well to this treatment?

If olaratumab treatment does not work for you and your condition progresses then your sarcoma team will stop your treatment. They will then advise you on alternative treatment options.

Can I access this treatment?

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have approved olaratumab to be used to treat sarcoma patients within the NHS in **England** and **Wales** until 2020. During this

time, further data will be collected and at the end of this period olaratumab will be re-assessed.

The Scottish Medicines Consortium has approved olaratumab to be used to treat sarcoma patients in **Scotland**.

In **Northern Ireland**, clinicians will make individual requests to access olaratumab on behalf of eligible patients..

What support is available?

Our Support Line is here for everyone affected by sarcoma.

Talk to us or email for information and support.



supportline@sarcoma.org.uk

- Our support line is independent and confidential
- We believe no question is a silly question
- We lend a listening ear
- We can point you in the right direction

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Sarcoma UK is the only cancer charity in the UK focusing on all types of sarcoma.

This factsheet has been produced by the Information and Support Team at Sarcoma UK. It has been reviewed by Sarcoma UK's Information Review Panel which includes healthcare professionals and people affected by sarcoma.

References to the source of information used to write this factsheet and an acknowledgement of the members of the Information Review Panel who reviewed the booklet are available from Sarcoma UK – info@sarcoma.org.uk

Sarcoma UK makes every reasonable effort to ensure that the information we provide is up-to-date, accurate and unbiased. We hope this factsheet adds to the medical advice you have received and helps you make informed decisions about your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of your care team if you are worried about any medical issues.



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