

SPECIALISED COMMISSIONING – RESPONSE TO AMENDMENTS REQUESTED TO EVIDENCE REVIEW DURING ENGAGEMENT OR CONSULTATION

URN	1853
POLICY TITLE	Rituximab for Refractory Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) in adults and post-pubescent children
CRG:	Specialised Rheumatology
NPOC:	Internal Medicine
Date	12 th August 2019

Description of comments during consultation	<p>RITUXIMAB AS MAINTENANCE TREATMENT FOR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A MULTICENTRE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF 147 PATIENTS</p> <p>Not yet published Matthias A. Cassia^{1,2*}, Federico Alberici^{1*}, Rachel B. Jones³, Rona M. Smith³, Giovanni Casazza², Maria Letizia Urban⁴, Giacomo Emmi⁴, Gabriella Moroni⁵, Renato Alberto Sinico⁶, Piergiorgio Messa⁵, Frances Hall⁸, Augusto Vaglio⁹, Maurizio Gallieni^{1,2}, David R Jayne³</p> <p><u>ArtRheum Accepted for Publication May 2019</u></p>
Action taken by Public Health lead	<p>It is a retrospective cohort study of 147 patients from 4 European centres including Addenbrookes in Cambridge. Two patient groups (non-comparable) were studied one with RTX maintenance (80pts treated for 24 mths) and the other with single RTX treatment. At 6 mths 45% were in CR, 28% in PR and 27% had treatment failure. In the RTM group the % of CR pts increased during follow up, with a 75% reduction in the dose of CS and 84%of patients in remission. Whilst the rate of flares decreased in addition to mild flares being experienced, post RMT a higher flare rate for serious flares was noted. Thirty five % of patients were sustained responders. However damage increased during follow up. Also a higher mortality was noted as well as a higher rate of late onset</p>

	<p>neutropenia. Also there was variability of RMT treatment schemes across centres.</p> <p>The utility of the findings above is of hypothesis generation on the benefits of an RMT scheme in the treatment of patients with severe disease related complications at the outset and for whom further flares are likely to be associated with serious and life threatening organ damage and failure. However, the hypothesis would need to be tested in a prospective study.</p> <p>*CR/PR – complete/partial remission **RMT – rituximab maintenance treatment</p>
<p>Outcome</p>	<p><u>Low grade evidence identified by stakeholders that does not materially affect the conclusions of the existing evidence reviews</u></p>