Plain English Summary

Atogepant and rimegepant for preventing migraine

What does the guidance say?

Atogepant is not recommended for government subsidy for preventing chronic migraine.

Atogepant and rimegepant are not recommended for government subsidy for preventing episodic migraine.

Why were they not recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Atogepant and rimegepant were not recommended for government subsidy because they did not represent an acceptable use of healthcare resources compared to alternative treatments. If you need atogepant for preventing chronic or episodic migraine, or rimegepant for preventing episodic migraine, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What is migraine?

Migraine is a type of severe headache that usually starts on one side of the head as a dull pain that slowly worsens to a throbbing pain. It can last for hours to days and worsens with movement or normal daily activities. Other symptoms of migraine can include nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to sound, light, and smell.

When someone has headaches for at least 15 days each month (of which at least 8 days are with migraine), this is called chronic migraine. People who have fewer headache days with migraine symptoms have episodic migraine.

What are atogepant and rimegepant?

Atogepant and rimegepant belong to a group of medicines called calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor antagonists which block the activity of a naturally occurring substance in the body called CGRP that causes migraine when it is at increased levels. Atogepant and rimegepant are taken orally.

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Are these the right treatments for me?

There are different types of treatments available for preventing chronic and episodic migraine. Your doctor may recommend atogepant or rimegepant 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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