

Plain English Summary

Amivantamab for treating locally advanced or metastatic EGFR mutation-positive non-small-cell lung cancer

What does the guidance say?

Amivantamab is not recommended for government funding for patients with:

- previously untreated, locally advanced or metastatic epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) exon 20 insertion mutation-positive non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), or
- previously treated, locally advanced or metastatic EGFR exon 19 deletion or exon 21 L858R substitution mutation-positive NSCLC.

It is not subsidised and cannot be claimed under MediShield Life.

What is locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC)?

There are different types of lung cancer depending on which cells are affected. Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common type. It occurs when cells grow uncontrollably and form a mass (tumour) in the lung.

People with NSCLC may not have any symptoms initially. As the cancer worsens, symptoms can include a persistent cough or shortness of breath, coughing up blood, tiredness, weight loss with no known cause, or pain when you breathe or cough. When the cancer has spread to nearby areas from where it started, this is known as locally advanced disease. When the cancer spreads to both lungs or to other parts of the body, this is known as metastatic disease.

What is an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutation?

The *EGFR* gene helps cells grow and divide. Some patients with NSCLC have mutations in the *EGFR* gene which causes abnormal cell growth. EGFR mutations are common in Asian populations, with exon 19 deletions and exon 21 L858R substitutions being the most frequent types. The exon 20 insertion is an uncommon type of EGFR mutation. Doctors test patients with lung cancer to see if they have any mutations so they can determine which treatments are likely to work best.

What is amivantamab?

Amivantamab belongs to a group of targeted medicines called monoclonal antibodies. It attaches to the EGFR protein on cancer cells, helping the immune system find and destroy them. It is given as a slow drip into a vein (intravenously) in combination with chemotherapy.

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Why was it not recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Amivantamab was not recommended for government funding because its benefits for patients with locally advanced or metastatic EGFR mutation-positive NSCLC do not justify its cost. If you need amivantamab, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

Is this the right treatment for me?

There are different types of treatments for locally advanced or metastatic EGFR mutation-positive NSCLC. Your doctor may recommend amivantamab if they consider it is the most suitable treatment for you. They 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, and who can I approach if I want to find out whether there is financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment?
- 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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