

Plain English Summary

Dostarlimab for treating primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer

What does the guidance say?

Dostarlimab used in combination with chemotherapy, followed by dostarlimab alone, is recommended for government funding for patients with untreated mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) or microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer. It is listed on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) and claimable under MediShield Life.

Dostarlimab is not recommended for government subsidy for patients with untreated mismatch repair proficient (pMMR) or microsatellite stable (MSS) primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer. It is claimable under MediShield Life.

What is primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer?

The uterus has two layers, an outer muscular lining and an inner lining (endometrium). Endometrial cancer occurs when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably in the inner lining of the uterus. Symptoms of endometrial cancer can include abnormal vaginal bleeding, discharge, pelvic pain and unintended weight loss.

Primary cancer refers to the original, or first tumour in the body. When the cancer spreads from the primary site to other parts of the body, this is known as advanced disease. If the cancer comes back after a period of time when it was undetected, this is known as recurrent cancer.

What is dMMR/MSI-H endometrial cancer?

Cells in our body have a set of instructions called DNA that tells them how to grow and function. In normal cells, a process called mismatch repair (MMR) helps to fix errors (mutations) that can occur when DNA replicates. However, in some cases, the repair system may not work properly, leading to a build up of errors which causes the DNA to become unstable. This is known as mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) or high microsatellite instability (MSI-H). Conversely, mismatch repair proficient (pMMR) or microsatellite stable (MSS) indicates that the repair system is working properly.

Tumours with MSI-H or dMMR account for around 25% of endometrial cancers. Doctors may order tests to determine if you have MSI-H or dMMR endometrial cancer to decide which drug treatment is best for your condition.

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What is dostarlimab?

Dostarlimab belongs to a group of medicines called PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitors, which are a type of cancer treatment called immunotherapy that helps the immune system find and destroy cancer cells. It is given as a slow drip into a vein (intravenously) either on its own or in combination with chemotherapy. Your doctor will tell you how much you need and how long you need to have it for.

Who can have dostarlimab?

Patients with untreated dMMR or MSI-H primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer can have dostarlimab, in combination with chemotherapy, followed by dostarlimab alone. Treatment with dostarlimab should be stopped at 3 years, or earlier if the cancer worsens.

Your doctor can advise if dostarlimab is a suitable treatment for you.

Why was dostarlimab recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Dostarlimab was recommended for government funding for patients with dMMR or MSI-H primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer because its benefits justify its cost.

Dostarlimab was not recommended for subsidy for treating patients with pMMR or MSS primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer because its benefits do not justify its cost for these conditions. If you need dostarlimab, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The MAF helps people pay for treatments that are clinically effective and cost effective. If your doctor prescribes dostarlimab for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 40% to 75%.

Dostarlimab has also been included on the Cancer Drug List (CDL) and is claimable under MediShield Life. The MediShield Life claim limits are available at go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list.

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Updated: 16 September 2025, 17 February 2025

First published: 13 September 2024

 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE  Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

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