

Plain English Summary

Sacituzumab govitecan for previously treated HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer

What does the guidance say?

Sacituzumab govitecan is not recommended for government subsidy for patients with HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer who have received endocrine-based therapy and at least two chemotherapies. It is claimable under MediShield Life, and the claim limits are available at go.gov.sg/moh-cancer-drug-list.

Why was it not recommended for subsidy?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Sacituzumab govitecan was not recommended for government subsidy because its benefits for patients with HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer do not justify its cost. If you need sacituzumab govitecan for advanced breast cancer, 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 is HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer?

Breast cancer occurs when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably in the ducts or lobes of the breast and spread into the surrounding breast tissue. When the cancer spreads to other parts of the body and cannot be removed with surgery (unresectable), this is known as advanced or metastatic disease.

Estrogen and progesterone are hormones that play an important role in the female reproductive system. Sometimes breast cancer cells contain proteins (receptors) that bind to these hormones and help the cancer to grow. This is known as HR (hormone receptor)-positive breast cancer.

Some breast cancer cells have too much of a protein (receptor) called HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2) on the surface of their cells which encourages cancer cells to divide and grow. This is known as HER2-positive breast cancer. Conversely, breast cancers with HER2 levels below a certain threshold are known as HER2-negative. Doctors determine which treatments are likely to work best depending on the types of receptors present and which treatments have already been tried.

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What is sacituzumab govitecan?

Sacituzumab govitecan belongs to a group of targeted medicines called antibody-drug conjugates. It specifically binds to a protein found on cancer cells, releasing a component that stops the cancer from growing. It is given as a slow drip into a vein (intravenously).

Is this the right treatment for me?


There are different types of treatments available for HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer. Your doctor may recommend you have sacituzumab govitecan when 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, 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?

Updated: 16 September 2025

First Published: 17 February 2025

 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.

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