Certolizumab pegol (CIMZIA) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

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Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
This paper presents a summary of the ERG report for the STA submission that considered the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of certolizumab pegol (CZP) for adults with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) that has not responded adequately to treatment with conventional disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (cDMARDs) including methotrexate (MTX). CZP is a ‘biological’ DMARD (bDMARD) whose effectiveness could be compared to cDMARDs or to other bDMARDs administered within their licensed indications.

Authors' conclusions
Certolizumab pegol is an effective therapy for adult RA patients whose disease has failed to respond adequately to cDMARDs including MTX or who are intolerant of MTX. A reasonable interpretation of the results is that there is little convincing evidence that CZP is more or less effective than the comparators examined.

Patients with RA may respond differently to different bDMARDs and effectiveness of a bDMARD for a specific patient is currently unpredictable; an increase in the variety of available bDMARDs might potentially increase the overall proportion of patients responsive to these drugs.

The cost-effectiveness of CZP relative to other bDMARD is unclear because the economic modelling undertaken may have ignored relevant effectiveness data and potential differences between trial populations, and so may have included effectiveness results that were biased in favour of CZP; underestimated uncertainty in the relative effectiveness of compared DMARDs; and ignored the potential influence of differences between bDMARDs with regard to adverse events and their related costs and health impacts.

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