



Jackie Evans  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
PO Box 10-254  
WELLINGTON

October 6, 2014

Dear Jackie,

The Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition would like to request that funding of pertuzumab (Perjeta) for the treatment of metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer be given a high priority following the latest positive results from the Clinical Evaluation of Pertuzumab and Trastuzumab (CLEOPATRA) study showing the extent to which the medicine prolongs lives.

The recent results from the Phase III CLEOPATRA study presented at the annual meeting of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) in Spain on 28 September, 2014 showed that patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer lived 15.7 months longer if they received pertuzumab in addition to trastuzumab and docetaxel.

These latest results are significantly stronger than earlier interim trial results that had shown the addition of pertuzumab increased overall survival by six months compared with those in the placebo arm of the study. This was because patients had not been followed for long enough to realize the full survival benefits. This final analysis has shown an overall survival benefit of 56.5 months for patients receiving pertuzumab compared to 40.8 months for those in the trastuzumab-docetaxel-placebo arm of the study.

The safety profile of pertuzumab-trastuzumab-docetaxel was consistent with the known safety profile of pertuzumab with more pronounced diarrhoea, rash, mucosal inflammation, pruritus, dry skin, and muscle spasm. There was no evidence of cumulative or late toxicity and the long-term cardiac safety profile was maintained. [Abstract; 350- PR-Final Overall Survival analysis from the CLEOPATRA study of first line of pertuzumab and trastuzumab and docetaxel in patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer] In relation to PHARMAC's decision criterion *the clinical benefits and risks of pharmaceuticals*, the results of the CLEOPATRA trial clearly indicate that the clinical and survival benefits of pertuzumab outweigh the risks.

*Making a difference together*

Mahia kotahi nga rerekētanga

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As an organization, we at the Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition regularly receive queries from HER2-positive breast cancer patients wanting to find out more about pertuzumab and how they can access it. Our member group Metavivors NZ, a group of New Zealanders with advanced breast cancer, is very hopeful that this medicine will be funded.

Of the 3,000 NZ women who are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, approximately 22% (660) of those will have HER2-positive breast cancer and a smaller proportion of these will have or will progress to metastatic disease. If every one of these women was given the opportunity to access pertuzumab and extend their period of life, this would be of enormous benefit to themselves, their families and their communities.

In relation to PHARMAC's decision criterion *The particular needs of Māori and Pacific peoples*, we note that there is higher incidence of breast cancers and in particular HER2 positive breast cancers in Māori and Pacific women, and that funding pertuzumab would go some way to addressing this inequity.

In summary, in light of the recent outstanding clinical trial results for pertuzumab, we would ask PHARMAC's Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutics Advisory Committee to closely examine these new data and strongly consider assigning a high priority to funding this medicine to be used as a first line treatment for metastatic breast cancer patients in combination with trastuzumab and docetaxel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Libby Burgess".

Libby Burgess  
Chairperson  
Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition