



NCPE Plain English Summary

Drug name: Larotrectinib (*pronounced: LAYR-oh-TREK-tih-nib*) for the treatment of solid tumours with NTRK gene fusion that have spread or cannot be removed by surgery or have no satisfactory treatment options.

Brand name: Vitrakvi®

What is the NCPE?

The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) is a team of experts who look at the health benefits and costs of medicines. The HSE asks us to advise on whether or not a new medicine is good value for money. We give unbiased advice to help the HSE provide the most effective, safe and cost-effective (value for money) treatments for patients.

How do we make our recommendations?

Our main focus is on the health benefits and cost effectiveness of a medicine. We look at the wider costs and health benefits associated with a new medicine, for example:

- Does the new medicine work better than other treatments available in Ireland?
- Is the new medicine easier to give or easier to take compared with other treatments available in Ireland?
- Does the new medicine reduce the need for patients to be hospitalised?
- Does the new medicine improve the quality of a patient's life over other treatments available in Ireland?
- Will the new medicine save resources elsewhere within the health system?

We review the information from clinical trials along with the cost and value for money data presented by the pharmaceutical company. We ask doctors and other healthcare professionals for advice about any health benefits of the new medicine compared with current treatments. We also ask patient organisations to send us their views on how the new drug may improve patients' day-to-day experience of living with a disease.

What is larotrectinib used for?

Larotrectinib is a cancer medicine for treating solid tumours with NTRK gene fusion that have spread or cannot be removed by surgery or have no satisfactory treatment options. NTRK gene fusion is a rare genetic abnormality that can occur in tumours from different parts of the body such as the lungs, thyroid glands and intestines.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding larotrectinib unless its cost effectiveness can be improved relative to existing treatments. The HSE will consider our recommendation and make the final decision about reimbursement (funding). When making the funding decision, the HSE will also consider the additional [criteria](#) outlined in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Why did we make this recommendation?

After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company, we concluded that it is not clear that larotrectinib works as well or better than other ways to treat all patients with this condition. The price of larotrectinib is too high compared with other ways to manage this condition, and we believe that larotrectinib is very poor value for money.

Next steps

When the HSE receives our recommendation, it will look at all the relevant data about larotrectinib. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about larotrectinib from the following online options:

- the NCPE Technical Summary Document
- Vitrakvi® European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)
or
- searching for larotrectinib on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for larotrectinib on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website (www.ema.europa.eu).

Please refer to the NCPE website for updated information on the reimbursement status of this medicine.

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