

## New oncology reimbursements in Belgium

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### Overview of Belgian reimbursement news

(*Belg J Med Oncol* 2014;8(5):228)

#### Bevacizumab, Avastin®

Recently the label for bevacizumab (Avastin®) has been broadened. Avastin® is now also reimbursed in second line, in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer, in combination with the standard treatment regimens after progression on another standard, fluoropyrimidine-based regimen in combination with bevacizumab, provided that:

1. the progression occurred three months after the last bevacizumab administration.
2. the progression-free survival with the bevacizumab-based regimen in first line was at least three months and
3. the duration of first-line treatment was at least three months.

In addition to this, bevacizumab can now also be reimbursed in patients with FIGO stage IV epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel. Bevacizumab is also reimbursed in patients with a first recurrence of an epithelial ovarian cancer in association with carboplatin and gemcitabine, provided that they did not receive a VEGF-direct treatment in first line.

For a more complete overview of the reimbursement modalities of bevacizumab we refer to the riziv/inami website ([www.riziv.fgov.be](http://www.riziv.fgov.be) / [www.inami.fgov.be](http://www.inami.fgov.be)).

#### Lapatinib, Tyverb®

The reimbursement of lapatinib was recently subject to change and the formulation is now also reimbursable under certain conditions in combination with:

1. trastuzumab in patients developing brain metastases while receiving trastuzumab, provided the extra-cranial disease is in remission and the tumour is ER- and PR-negative,
2. an aromatase inhibitor in patients who did not receive prior hormonal therapy, trastuzumab or chemotherapy in case anti-oestrogens and trastuzumab are contra-

indicated.

For a more complete overview of the reimbursement modalities of lapatinib we refer to the riziv/inami website ([www.riziv.fgov.be](http://www.riziv.fgov.be) / [www.inami.fgov.be](http://www.inami.fgov.be)).

#### Subcutaneous Herceptin®

The subcutaneous formulation of Herceptin® (trastuzumab) can be reimbursed in breast cancer patients in the adjuvant and metastatic setting. This formulation is not reimbursable in gastric cancer.

#### Pertuzumab, Perjeta®

Pertuzumab can be reimbursed under certain conditions in combination with trastuzumab and docetaxel in patients with HER2-positive metastatic or locally advanced breast cancer who did not receive any prior chemotherapy or anti-HER2 therapy in the metastatic disease setting. The reimbursement takes into account a maximal initial loading dose of 840mg followed by 3-weekly doses of 420mg.

#### Aflibercept, Zaltrap®

Aflibercept can be reimbursed in combination with an irinotecan-base regimen after prior treatment with an oxaliplatin-based regimen in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who have an ECOG performance 0 or 1 and who did not progress within six months after the adjuvant therapy. All patients need to undergo CT-or MRI scans six weeks after starting therapy to assess tumour progression. In case of progressive disease the treatment needs to be stopped.

#### Vismodegib, Erivedge®

Erivedge® (vismodegib) can be reimbursed in patients with locally advanced basal cell carcinoma of the skin who do not qualify for surgery or radiotherapy or with metastatic basal cell carcinoma.

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**Conflict of interest:** The authors have nothing to disclose and indicate no potential conflict of interest.