

Lenvatinib and sorafenib for differentiated thyroid cancer after radioactive iodine: a systematic review and economic evaluation

Nigel Fleeman,^{1*} Rachel Houten,¹ Adrian Bagust,¹ Marty Richardson,¹ Sophie Beale,¹ Angela Boland,¹ Yenil Dundar,¹ Janette Greenhalgh,¹ Juliet Hounsome,¹ Rui Duarte¹ and Aditya Shenoy²

¹Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

²The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Birkenhead, UK

*Corresponding author nigel.fleeman@liverpool.ac.uk

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Plain English summary

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What was the problem?

Differentiated thyroid cancer is a common type of thyroid cancer. For many patients, radioactive iodine is an effective treatment; however, for some patients, the treatment stops working or becomes unsafe. Two new drugs, lenvatinib (Lenvima®; Eisai Ltd, Hertfordshire, UK) and sorafenib (Nexar®; Bayer HealthCare, Leverkusen, Germany), may be new treatment options.

What did we do?

We reviewed the clinical evidence of lenvatinib and sorafenib. We also estimated the costs and benefits of treatment.

What did we find?

Compared with no treatment, treatment with lenvatinib or sorafenib may increase the time that people live with thyroid cancer before their disease gets worse; however, both drugs are expensive and may have unpleasant side effects.

What does this mean?

At their published (undiscounted) prices, lenvatinib or sorafenib may not be considered to provide good value for money to the NHS.

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This report

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