Rilpivirine (HIV-1 infection, combination with cabotegravir)

Resolution of: 21 October 2021 Valid until: unlimited
Entry into force on: 21 October 2021
BAnz AT 17 12 2021 B5

Therapeutic indication (according to the marketing authorisation of 17 December 2020):

Rekambys is indicated, in combination with cabotegravir injection, for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in adults who are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA < 50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen without present or past evidence of viral resistance to, and no prior virological failure with, agents of the NNRTI and INI class.

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Prior to the initiation of Rekambys, rilpivirine oral tablets, together with cabotegravir oral tablets, should be taken for approximately 1 month (at least 28 days) to assess tolerability to rilpivirine and cabotegravir.
If a patient plans to miss a scheduled injection by more than 7 days, daily oral therapy (one rilpivirine tablet [25 mg] and one cabotegravir tablet [30 mg]) may be used to replace up to 2 consecutive monthly injection visits.

The present assessment refers to the entire therapy concept consisting of the oral lead-in phase, the intramuscular maintenance phase and the oral bridging therapy.

1. Additional benefit of the medicinal product in relation to the appropriate comparator therapy

Adults with HIV-1 infection who are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen without present or past evidence of viral resistance to, and no prior virological failure with agents of the NNRTI and INI class.

Appropriate comparator therapy for rilpivirine in combination with cabotegravir:

A patient-individual antiretroviral therapy using a selection of approved active ingredients; taking into account the previous therapy(ies) and, if applicable, side effects

Extent and probability of the additional benefit of rilpivirine in combination with cabotegravir compared to the appropriate comparator therapy:

An additional benefit is not proven.

Study results according to endpoints:

Adults with HIV-1 infection who are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen without present or past evidence of viral resistance to, and no prior virological failure with agents of the NNRTI and INI class.

No adequate data are available to allow an assessment of the additional benefit.

Summary of results for relevant clinical endpoints

Endpoint category	Direction of effect/ risk of bias	Summary
Mortality	n.a.	There are no assessable data.
Morbidity	n.a.	There are no assessable data.
Health-related quality of life	n.a.	There are no assessable data.
Side effects	n.a.	There are no assessable data.
Explanations: ↑: statistically significant and relevant positive effect with low/unclear reliability of data ↓: statistically significant and relevant negative effect with low/unclear reliability of data ↑↑: statistically significant and relevant positive effect with high reliability of data ↓↓: statistically significant and relevant negative effect with high reliability of data ↔: no statistically significant or relevant difference ∅: There are no usable data for the benefit assessment. n.a.: not assessable		

2. Number of patients or demarcation of patient groups eligible for treatment

Adults with HIV-1 infection who are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen without present or past evidence of viral resistance to, and no prior virological failure with agents of the NNRTI and INI class.

approx. 59,900 patients

3. Requirements for a quality-assured application

The requirements in the product information are to be taken into account. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) provides the contents of the product information (summary of product characteristics, SmPC) for Rekambys (active ingredient: rilpivirine) at the following publicly accessible link (last access: 12 July 2021):
https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/product-information/rekambys-epar-product-information_en.pdf

Treatment with rilpivirine should only be initiated and monitored by specialists who are experienced in the treatment of patients with HIV-1.

Prior to initiating treatment with Rekambys, healthcare professionals should carefully select patients who agree to the required injection schedule and counsel patients about the importance of adherence to scheduled dosing visits to help maintain viral suppression and reduce the risk of viral rebound and potential development of resistance associated with missed doses.
Following discontinuation of Rekambys in combination with cabotegravir injection, it is essential to adopt an alternative, fully suppressive antiretroviral regimen no later than one month after the last every 1-month injection of Rekambys and two months after the last every 2 months injection of Rekambys.

4. Treatment costs

Annual treatment costs:

Adults with HIV-1 infection who are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen without present or past evidence of viral resistance to, and no prior virological failure with agents of the NNRTI and INI class.

Designation of the therapy	Annual treatment costs/ patient
Medicinal product to be assessed:	
Rilpivirine + cabotegravir	
Rilpivirine	€ 4,430.40
Cabotegravir	€ 7,974.00
Total:	€ 12,404.40
Appropriate comparator therapy:	
Individual antiretroviral therapy[1]	€ 2,066.02 - 20,052.53

Costs after deduction of statutory rebates (LAUER-TAXE®) as last revised: 1st October 2021)

Costs for additionally required SHI services: not applicable

[1] Because of the different combination possibilities in individual therapy, not all possible combination therapies are presented but a cost-effective (nevirapine + lamivudine / tenofovir disoproxil) and a cost-intensive therapy (maraviroc + abacavir + emtricitabine) as examples.