



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

Nirogacestat for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma

On 17 October 2019, orphan designation EU/3/19/2214 was granted by the European Commission to Voisin Consulting S.A.R.L., France, for nirogacestat for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma.

What is soft tissue sarcoma?

Soft tissue sarcoma is a cancer that affects the soft, supportive tissues of the body. It can occur in muscles, blood vessels, fat tissue or in other tissues that support, surround and protect organs. Patients with soft tissue sarcoma do not usually have symptoms in the early stages of the disease. First symptoms appear when the cancer grows large enough to cause swelling and pain.

Soft tissue sarcoma is a long-term debilitating and life-threatening disease, particularly when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

What is the estimated number of patients affected by the condition?

At the time of designation, soft tissue sarcoma affected approximately 4.6 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 238,000 people*, and is below the ceiling for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. This is based on the information provided by the sponsor and the knowledge of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP).

What treatments are available?

At the time of designation, the main treatments for soft tissue sarcoma were surgery and chemotherapy (medicines to treat cancer). Radiotherapy (treatment with radiation) was also used. Several medicines have been authorised in the EU for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma.

The sponsor has provided sufficient information to show that the medicine might be of significant benefit for patients with soft tissue sarcoma. Results in patients with a type of soft tissue sarcoma called a desmoid tumour (aggressive fibromatosis), whose disease had not responded to treatment or had come back again, suggested that treatment with nirogacestat could produce improvements in their

*Disclaimer: For the purpose of the designation, the number of patients affected by the condition is estimated and assessed on the basis of data from the European Union (EU 28), Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This represents a population of 518,400,000 (Eurostat 2019).



condition. This assumption will need to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation, in order to maintain the orphan status.

How is this medicine expected to work?

Nirogacestat is a small molecule that blocks the action of an enzyme called gamma secretase (GS) which controls a process inside the cell (called Notch signalling) that switches on certain genes. This process is believed to be abnormal in some cancer cells and to play an important role in the development of the cancer. By blocking the action of GS, nirogacestat can prevent abnormal Notch signalling and reduce the growth of soft tissue sarcomas that depend on it.

What is the stage of development of this medicine?

The effects of nirogacestat have been evaluated in experimental models.

At the time of submission of the application for orphan designation, clinical trials with nirogacestat in patients with soft tissue sarcoma were ongoing.

At the time of submission, nirogacestat was not authorised anywhere in the EU for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma. Orphan designation of nirogacestat had been granted in the United States for treatment of desmoid tumour.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 12 September 2019, recommending the granting of this designation.

Opinions on orphan medicinal product designations are based on the following three criteria:

- the seriousness of the condition;
- the existence of alternative methods of diagnosis, prevention or treatment;
- either the rarity of the condition (affecting not more than 5 in 10,000 people in the EU) or insufficient returns on investment.

Designated orphan medicinal products are products that are still under investigation and are considered for orphan designation on the basis of potential activity. An orphan designation is not a marketing authorisation. As a consequence, demonstration of quality, safety and efficacy is necessary before a product can be granted a marketing authorisation.

For more information

Sponsor's contact details:

Contact details of the current sponsor for this orphan designation can be found on [EMA website](#).

For contact details of patients' organisations whose activities are targeted at rare diseases see:

- [Orphanet](#), a database containing information on rare diseases, which includes a directory of patients' organisations registered in Europe;
- [European Organisation for Rare Diseases \(EURORDIS\)](#), a non-governmental alliance of patient organisations and individuals active in the field of rare diseases.

Translations of the active ingredient and indication in all official EU languages¹, Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
English	Nirogacestat	Treatment of soft tissue sarcoma
Bulgarian	Нирогастат	Лечение на сарком на меките тъкани
Croatian	Nirogacestat	Liječenje sarkoma mekih tkiva
Czech	Nirogacestat	Léčba sarkomu měkkých tkání
Danish	Nirogacestat	Behandling af bløddelssarkom
Dutch	Nirogacestat	Behandeling weke delen sarcoom
Estonian	Nirogacestaat	Pehmele kudede sarkoomi ravi
Finnish	Nirogakestaatti	Pehmytkudossarkooman hoito
French	Nirogacestat	Traitement des sarcomes des tissus mous
German	Nirogacestat	Behandlung des Weichteilsarkoms
Greek	Νιρογκασεστάτη	Θεραπεία του σαρκώματος των μαλακών ιστών
Hungarian	Nirogacestat	Lágy szöveti sarcoma kezelése
Italian	Nirogacestat	Trattamento dei sarcomi dei tessuti molli
Latvian	Nirogacestats	Mīksto audu sarkomas ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Nirogacestatas	Minkštųjų audinių sarkomos gydymas
Maltese	Nirogacestat	Kura tas-sarkoma tat-tessuti rotob
Polish	Nirogacestat	Leczenie mięsaków tkanek miękkich
Portuguese	Nirogacestate	Tratamento do sarcoma dos tecidos moles
Romanian	Nirogacestat	Tratamentul sarcomului țesuturilor moi
Slovak	Nirogacestat	Liečba sarkómu mäkkých tkanív
Slovenian	Nirogacestat	Zdravljenje sarkoma mehkih tkiv
Spanish	Nirogacestat	Tratamiento del sarcoma de tejidos blandos
Swedish	Nirogacestat	Behandling av mjukdelssarkom
Norwegian	Nirogacestat	Behandling av bløtvevssarkom
Icelandic	Nirogacestat	Meðferð við mjúkvefjasarkmeini

¹ At the time of designation