

Brinzolamide/ brimonidine tartrate eye drops suspension (Simbrinza[®])

For chronic open angle glaucoma in adults

Commissioning Statement

Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed to fund the prescribing of Brinzolamide/ brimonidine tartrate eye drops suspension (Simbrinza[®]) for the treatment of chronic open angle glaucoma in adults for whom monotherapy provides insufficient intraocular pressure reduction (IOP), only if the following apply:

- The use of prostaglandin analogues and beta-blockers are unsuitable for the patient.
- The patient is currently on one of the individual constituents and their IOP cannot be reduced sufficiently.

This medicine is classified as AMBER 0 for this indication

Background and summary of the evidence

- NICE's guideline on glaucoma recommends using a topical beta-blocker or a prostaglandin analogue as the first-line treatment option for ocular hypertension or suspected chronic open angle glaucoma. A prostaglandin analogue should be offered to people with mild or moderate chronic open angle glaucoma. To stop or reduce disease progression or onset, it may be necessary to combine first-line drugs or add others, such as sympathomimetics, or carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, to control intraocular pressure.
- In 2 randomised controlled trials in people with glaucoma, brinzolamide/brimonidine combination eye drops were statistically significantly superior to either constituent drug administered alone as monotherapy in reducing intraocular pressure at 3 months. The combination eye drops were non-inferior to brinzolamide plus brimonidine administered concomitantly. Most reported adverse events were mild to moderate and localised, but these were higher in number with the combination eye drops compared with the individual constituent drugs.
- There are no published studies comparing brinzolamide/brimonidine combination eye drops with other drug treatments for managing glaucoma and ocular hypertension. Brinzolamide/brimonidine may be an alternative treatment option for some people, for whom prostaglandin analogues and beta-blockers are unsuitable.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Nice advice (ESNM56) Glaucoma: brinzolamide/brimonidine combination eye drops. March 2015
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Clinical Guideline 85. Glaucoma: Diagnosis and management of chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. April 2009.

For details around the colour classification system please refer to the website of the Lancashire Medicines Management Group at: <http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/>

Policy date: May 2015

Review date: May 2018