

Thames Valley Priorities Committees (Berkshire PCTs)

Policy Statement 88: Eflornithine 11.5% cream for the treatment of facial hirsutism
Ref TV53

Date of Issue: July 2005

The Thames Valley Priorities Committees recommend that Eflornithine cream for facial hirsutism be considered a LOW PRIORITY treatment.

Eflornithine is an irreversible inhibitor of L-ornithine decarboxylase, an enzyme thought to be important in controlling hair growth and proliferation. Treatment does not remove hairs but slows down and reduces the size of the hairs that are present, so that they become less coarse and less visible. Eflornithine 11.5% cream is licensed for the treatment of facial hirsutism in women.

Summary of evidence for effectiveness

Clinical trials investigated the safety and efficacy of eflornithine in two double blind, randomised, vehicle controlled clinical trials involving 594 women of skin types I-VI (393 on eflornithine, 201 on vehicle) treated for up to 24 weeks. In each of these studies statistically significant improvement for versus eflornithine vehicle was seen. These improvements resulted in a corresponding reduction in the darkening appearance of the facial skin associated with the presence of terminal hair. Patient self-assessments demonstrated a significantly reduced psychological discomfort with the condition, as measured by responses to a self-assessment questionnaire. Eflornithine significantly reduced how bothered patients felt by their facial hair and by the time spent removing, treating, or concealing facial hair.

There is no evidence of its efficacy in comparison to existing treatments and it is substantially more expensive.

This statement will be reviewed in light of new evidence or further guidance from NICE.

References

1. *London New Drugs Group APC/DTC briefing document Eflornithine (Vaniqa) August 2004*
2. *Scottish Medicines Consortium Eflornithine 11.5% cream March 2005*
3. *Scientific Discussion: Vaniqa Shire Pharmaceuticals 2004*
<http://www.emea.eu.int/humandocs/Humans/EPAR/vaniqa/vaniqa.htm> Accessed: 28-7-0004