



News Release

AFA, PO Box 1219, Chew Magna, Bristol, BS40 8WB, UK

Email: info@atrial-fibrillation.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1122442

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Atrial Fibrillation Association welcomes Final NICE Guidance for Dronedaron

The Atrial Fibrillation Association has welcomed the final publication of NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) guidelines for the use of the drug Dronedaron (Multaq) in patients with Atrial Fibrillation.

The guidelines, released today (August 25th 2010) allow the use of the drug as a second line treatment option in people with additional cardiovascular risk factors whose AF has not been controlled by first-line therapy (usually including beta-blockers).

This reversed its previous draft guidance published in December 2009 which refused the use of the drug, causing outrage among cardiologists and patients groups.

NICE's Appraisal Committee recognised that Dronedaron can and should occupy a currently vacant place in the care pathway, and that for a large and growing number of patients it could represent the only treatment option open to them.

Dronedaron, is the first new drug for AF for 25 years and AFA campaigned hard for it to be made available to patients in need. **Trudie Lobban MBE, CEO of the Atrial Fibrillation Association says it will help many lead an improved quality of life,**

"The implementation of the guidelines will mean so many people for whom other treatments haven't proved effective, will be able to live a more normal life. We have worked vigorously to ensure that people with AF are able to take advantage of this drug and we are really pleased that NICE have made the right decision."

Professor John Camm, Head of the Department of Cardiac & Vascular Sciences at St George's, University of London, a Trustee of AFA and President of Arrhythmia Alliance said: *"This decision will please many clinicians working in our field. It enables us to have the authority to prescribe dronedaron and gives us an additional treatment for patients who may have run out of options. I want to thank the NICE committee for being so responsive to requests to review all the evidence."*

Editor's Notes



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1. For more information, please contact Jo Jerrome at AFA at jo@atrialfibrillationassociation.org.uk or call 01789 330119