**Health economic evaluation of the first CAR-T therapy, Yescarta**

**The Swedish Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency, TLV, has published the results of a health economic assessment for the advanced CAR-T therapy, Yescarta, for the treatment of B-cell lymphoma. The economic assessment represents the first CAR-T therapy to be evaluated by TLV.**

TLV notes that there is a great deal of uncertainty in Yescarta's clinical effectiveness, related to number of potentially cured patients and their long-term survival. These factors greatly impact the cost-benefit relationship associated with the treatment.

These new, advanced gene therapies show great potential and will have a significant impact on cancer treatment. Nevertheless, these substantial uncertainties must be addressed through follow up of Yescarta in order to establish how the treatment is used in clinical practice. This observation should be continuous and will help reduce uncertainties associated with the treatment effect.

The New Therapies, NT, Council is a group of experts that supports the Swedish county councils on questions concerning new drug therapies. The health-economic assessment will now be used by the NT Council in its discussions with the company on how to introduce Yescarta into routine clinical use.

Lymphoma is the overall name for a group of malignant tumor diseases that originate from the cells of the lymphatic system. Yescarta is indicated for adult patients with two subtypes of aggressive B-cell lymphoma, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma, after relapse or if the patient has not responded to treatment after two or more lines of treatment. Yescarta consists of the patients own cells that have been modified in a laboratory. The modified cells, the CAR-T cells, recognize and bind to the protein CD19 found on the cell surface of both the B-cells and the tumor cells. When the modified cells bind to CD19 it causes cell death of the CD19 expressing cell.