Cotellic

Dubai · access guide

How to access Cotellic (with Zelboraf and optionally Tecentriq) for BRAF V600E/V600K metastatic melanoma from Dubai: 2026 pathway via medical oncology and combination supply | Reserve Meds

By Reserve Meds clinical & regulatory team. Last reviewed 2026-05-20.

Dubai's adult medical oncology infrastructure is anchored at American Hospital Dubai, Mediclinic City Hospital and Mediclinic Parkview Hospital, NMC Specialty Hospital Dubai, Aster Hospital, King's College Hospital London Dubai, Saudi German Hospital Dubai, and the MBRU-affiliated programmes. Each runs a medical oncology service capable of diagnosing, biomarker-testing, and managing BRAF V600E or V600K-mutant unresectable or metastatic melanoma in adults. For complex cases or for patients who want the deepest cellular and tumour-board depth in the country, cross-emirate referral to Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD) is the standard route. Cotellic (cobimetinib) is the Genentech / Roche oral MEK1/2 inhibitor approved by the FDA only in combination with vemurafenib (Zelboraf), with or without atezolizumab (Tecentriq). Dubai dispensing is coordinated through DHA Pharmaceutical Affairs and UAE Emirates Drug Establishment (EDE) registration is verified at intake. Reserve Meds does not promote one BRAF/MEK combination over another; this page describes the Cotellic combination because that is what the patient or family is asking about.

This page explains how the pathway works in 2026 for a Dubai-resident adult: who qualifies, where the molecular diagnostics, baseline ophthalmologic exam, baseline echocardiogram, and baseline liver and creatine kinase workup happen, where the prescriptions for Cotellic AND Zelboraf are written and filled together, what the realistic out-of-pocket exposure band is in AED for the combined regimen, what to monitor on therapy, and how the multi-month course settles into a Dubai family's life.

Why Cotellic, and why now

Cotellic is cobimetinib, an oral, highly selective, reversible inhibitor of MEK1 and MEK2. It was discovered at Exelixis and developed and brought to FDA approval in November 2015 by Genentech (Roche Group). The MAPK cascade logic is direct: BRAF V600E or V600K produces a constitutively active mutant BRAF kinase driving MEK and ERK independently of normal upstream RAS regulation. Adding MEK inhibition downstream of BRAF blocks the paradoxical pathway activation that drives the keratoacanthoma and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma signal of BRAF monotherapy, and improves overall survival relative to BRAF monotherapy.

The two pivotal FDA approvals for Cotellic in melanoma are the November 2015 coBRIM doublet approval and the July 2020 IMspire150 triplet approval:

- **coBRIM doublet (Cotellic 60 mg QD oral, 21 days on / 7 days off, plus Zelboraf 960 mg BID continuous)**: median PFS 12.3 months on the doublet versus 7.2 months on Zelboraf monotherapy; median overall survival 22.3 months versus 17.4 months. - **IMspire150 triplet (Cotellic plus Zelboraf plus atezolizumab)**: median PFS 15.1 months versus 10.6 months on the doublet placebo arm. The triplet adds a PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor to the BRAF/MEK backbone for selected first-line patients.

The October 2022 expanded approval covers histiocytic neoplasms; the Dubai melanoma practice in 2026 is the main use case and the focus of this page.

For a Dubai patient with confirmed BRAF V600E or V600K-mutant unresectable or metastatic melanoma, the Cotellic plus Zelboraf doublet sits as one of three FDA-approved BRAF/MEK doublets (alongside Tafinlar plus Mekinist and Braftovi plus Mektovi). Reserve Meds does not promote one BRAF/MEK combination over another.

What Cotellic is, in plain language

Cotellic is an oral 20 mg tablet. Three tablets (60 mg) once daily for 21 consecutive days, followed by 7 days off, repeated every 28 days. Zelboraf is an oral 240 mg tablet taken as four tablets (960 mg) twice daily continuously. Both drugs are dispensed on a 28-day refill cycle synchronised to the Cotellic cycle. If Tecentriq is added (IMspire150 triplet), the patient also visits the infusion suite on the protocol schedule.

Eligibility at a Dubai medical oncologist's clinic

1. Histologically confirmed unresectable or metastatic cutaneous melanoma. 2. Confirmed BRAF V600E or V600K mutation by NGS, PCR, or IHC with molecular confirmation. 3. Adult patient (18 or older). 4. Staging workup with contrast CT, PET-CT where indicated, and brain MRI. 5. Baseline ophthalmologic examination including slit-lamp, dilated funduscopic exam, and OCT. Serous retinopathy and retinal vein occlusion are recognised Cotellic class effects. 6. Baseline echocardiogram with documented LVEF. Cotellic can cause cardiomyopathy with reduced LVEF. 7. Baseline LFTs, CK, CBC, comprehensive metabolic panel, fasting glucose, lipid panel, pregnancy test. 8. Drug interaction screen for CYP3A4 inhibitors and inducers. 9. Photosensitivity counsel. The Dubai UV-intense climate amplifies the burden. 10. Pregnancy and contraception planning.

The Dubai prescribing and supply picture, plainly

In 2026 the Dubai centres with active BRAF/MEK combination prescribing include American Hospital Dubai, Mediclinic City Hospital and Mediclinic Parkview Hospital, King's College Hospital London Dubai, NMC Specialty Hospital Dubai, Aster Hospital, and Saudi German Hospital Dubai. Cross-emirate referral to CCAD or SSMC handles complex or triplet-eligible cases. The pathway:

1. Diagnosis and BRAF V600 molecular confirmation at the diagnosing centre's pathology lab or regional reference lab. Most Dubai centres run BRAF V600 IHC and PCR onsite; NGS panels typically route to Caris Life Sciences or Foundation Medicine. 2. Multidisciplinary melanoma tumour board review documenting BRAF V600 status, the doublet versus triplet choice, and the treatment plan. 3. Insurance pre-authorisation for BOTH Cotellic AND Zelboraf in a single combined-rationale submission to the Dubai-relevant payer (DHA-coordinated; Daman; AXA Gulf; NEXtCARE; MSH; Bupa Global; Allianz Care). Pre-authorisation typically takes 7 to 14 days. 4. Named-patient supply if EDE label scope or local stock requires it. Reserve Meds supports the documentation pack and Roche regional liaison. 5. Synchronised pharmacy dispense of Cotellic and Zelboraf on a 28-day refill cycle through Dubai-licensed specialty pharmacies coordinated by DHA Pharmaceutical Affairs. Triplet patients add Tecentriq infusions. 6. Ongoing monitoring labs, ophthalmologic surveillance, and echocardiogram per the schedule below.

Cost band

The Cotellic plus Zelboraf doublet US list price is approximately USD 20,000 to USD 23,000 per month, with an annual combined cost of approximately USD 220,000 to USD 280,000. At indicative 2026 cross rates, this is approximately AED 808,000 to AED 1.03 million per year. The IMspire150 triplet adds Tecentriq at approximately USD 14,000 to USD 16,000 per 21-day cycle.

Monitoring and ancillary costs add 8 to 18 percent to the combined drug cost base.

What to expect on Cotellic, week-by-week

Three distinctive adverse events anchor the counselling visit:

- **Photosensitivity**: severe and onset early, often within the first 1 to 2 weeks. The Dubai climate amplifies the burden. - **Retinopathy**: serous retinopathy can appear as early as the first cycle. Any new visual symptom prompts urgent ophthalmology review with OCT. - **Cardiomyopathy**: asymptomatic LVEF decline at week 4 echocardiogram in a meaningful minority. Echo at baseline, week 4, then quarterly.

Other recognised toxicities include diarrhoea, nausea, fever, peripheral oedema, rash, hepatotoxicity, rhabdomyolysis with CK elevation, and hemorrhage. Treatment continues for as long as there is clinical benefit and tolerability.

When Cotellic is the wrong drug

Cotellic plus Zelboraf is not the right answer for BRAF wild-type melanoma, prior clinically significant retinopathy, baseline LVEF below institutional threshold, severe photosensitivity intolerance, concurrent strong CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers without dose adjustment, severe hepatic impairment, pregnancy, or a patient for whom the treating medical oncologist prefers Tafinlar plus Mekinist or Braftovi plus Mektovi on tolerability or familiarity grounds. Reserve Meds does not promote one BRAF/MEK combination over another.

What Reserve Meds does on this case

We are a US-based concierge coordinator. We build the document pack, submit first-review requests to the chosen Dubai prescribing centre (or cross-emirate to CCAD or SSMC where the case calls for it), coordinate the insurance pre-authorisation for Cotellic AND Zelboraf in parallel, support named-patient regulatory liaison if EDE label scope requires it, set up the first synchronised dispense of both drugs through DHA-licensed channels, and stay with the case through the refill cycle. Clinical decisions remain with your treating medical oncologist and the multidisciplinary melanoma tumour board.

Start your case at reservemeds.com. We respond within one business day in English or Arabic.

Reserve Meds's role

US-based concierge coordinator for cross-border specialty medicine. We are not the prescriber, not the dispensing pharmacy, and not the manufacturer. All clinical decisions remain with your treating physician.

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