Questions are being raised about the ef-fectiveness of axitinib as a life-prolonging second-line treatment for patients with advanced kidney cancer.  

Manufactured by Pfizer and marketed as Inlyta, Axitinib was approved in the United States in January 2012 and in Europe in September 2012. The U.K.’s Na-tional Institute for Health and Clinical Ex-cellence (NICE), which provides guidance to the National Health Service (NHS), recently released a preliminary report recom-mending against the use of axitinib as a second-line therapy for the treatment of advanced kidney cancer because of how comparisons with other treatments were conducted.

The preliminary decision by the inde-pendent Appraisal Committee of NICE was that axitinib should not be recom-mended for kidney cancer treatment after first-line treatment failure with sunitinib (another kidney cancer drug from Pfizer marketed as Sutent) or a cytokine drug.