EMA recommends restricting use of Ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids

19.01.2021| Circular Number P28/2020

Information on Ulipristal Acetate

- Ulipristal acetate 5mg is used to treat symptoms related to uterine fibroids (non-cancerous tumours of the womb) in pre-menopausal women
- Ulipristal is used to remove fibroids for up to 3 months before surgery
- Ulipristal is also used long-term with treatment breaks in women who cannot undergo surgery.

In Malta, ulipristal acetate is authorised through various licensing procedures:

Active Ingredients	Product Name	Pharmaceutical Form	Classification	Authorisation Number	MAH/license holder
Ulipristal acetate 5mg	Ulipristal G.L. 5mg Tablets	Tablet	POM	MA 993/00301	G.L. Pharma GmbH
Ulipristal acetate 5mg	Esmya 5mg	Tablet	POM	EMEA/H/C/002041	Gedeon Richter Plc

Information from the EMA about the risk of liver injury associated with the use of Ulipristal acetate

The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) carried out a review on serious liver injury associated with the use of Ulipristal acetate. From this review, neither the patients most at risk nor measures that could reduce the risk were identified. As a result, PRAC advised that these medicines should not be marketed in the EU. The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) endorsed the PRAC's assessment of the risk of liver injury. However, the benefits of using Ulipristal acetate 5mg to control fibroids outweigh the risk in women who have no other treatment options. The CHMP recommended that the medicine remains available to treat premenopausal women who could not have surgery or for whom surgery was unsuccessful.

The CHMP has therefore recommended:

- Restricting use of Ulipristal acetate 5mg as a result of cases of serious liver injury
- Ulipristal acetate 5mg can should only be used to treat uterine fibroids in premenopausal women for whom surgical procedures (including uterine fibroid embolisation) are not ideal or have failed

- Ulipristal acetate 5mg should not be used to control symptoms of uterine fibroids while awaiting surgical treatment
- The use of Ulipristal acetate 5mg for uterine fibroids is suspended as a precaution while awaiting the outcome of this review
- The Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), Patient Information Leaflets (PIL) and any education material for Ulipristal acetate 5mg are reviewed and will include information related to the risk of liver failure which may require liver transplantation in some.

No concern about liver injury has been raised with the single-dose emergency contraception medicines containing Ulipristal acetate, such as EllaOne® and other trade names.

The CHMP recommendation will be forwarded to the European Commission (EC) for its decision which will be issued in due course

In Malta

For Healthcare Professionals

- Ulipristal acetate 5 mg medicine is only prescribed for uterine fibroids in women who have not reached menopause, who cannot have surgery (including uterine fibroid embolization) or the surgical procedure has been unsuccessful
- Serious liver injury, occasionally requiring liver transplantation, has been reported so using Ulipristal acetate 5mg should be restricted
- Before treatment with ulipristal acetate 5 mg:
    - Discuss all available treatment options with woman patients
    - Counsel woman patients on the risk of liver failure and eventual need for liver transplantation
    - Follow SmPC (including contraindications and recommendations on liver function monitoring) and physician's guide to prescribing available for Ulipristal acetate even though risk factors for liver injury with Ulipristal acetate 5mg or specific measures have not been identified
    - Advise patients to monitor for signs and symptoms of liver damage.

A DHPC letter about the safety concern will be disseminated to HCPs in Malta. Archived DHPC letters are available online at http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/dhpc.

Advice for Patients

- Treatment with Ulipristal acetate 5mg for uterine fibroids, which are non-cancerous growths in the womb, is started only if patient is pre-menopausal, if patient cannot be operated for the condition or if the operation has failed

- Serious liver injury has been reported in women taking Ulipristal acetate 5mg, which resulted in liver transplantation in a few cases. Your doctor will discuss with you if your need for treatment overcome the risks.

- You will have a blood test to check the liver before, during and after treatment with Ulipristal acetate 5mg
- You are recommended to read the card you are provided with Ulipristal acetate 5mg because it explains what needs to be done in cases of any signs of liver injury
- You should stop the Treatment with Ulipristal acetate 5mg must be stopped if any signs of liver injury such as yellowing of the skin, dark urine, feeling sick or vomiting are experienced. Speak with your doctor immediately.
- Speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions and concerns about your treatment.

For more information please see the European Medicines Agency's Ulipristal acetate 5mg medicinal products Article-31 referral

Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to maintain vigilance on Ulipristal acetate 5mg. Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (side effects) may be reported using the Medicines Authority Form and sending it to Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000 or online to **http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal** or to the marketing authorisation holder or their local representatives.

Post-Licensing Directorate
Medicines Authority

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to regularly check the Medicines Authority website for product safety updates as these are issued on an ongoing basis.

Feedback Form

The Medicines Authority thanks you for the time taken to read this safety circular. The dissemination of safety circulars is an important process whereby Regulatory Authorities can communicate important issues with respect to the safety of medicines, in order to protect and enhance public health

The Medicines Authority kindly invites your anonymous feedback about the regulatory action being communicated. This may be returned by folding this formt (address side up), stapling the ends and then posting (no stamp required)

Feedback:

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Pharmacovigilance Section

Post-Licensing Directorate

Medicines Authority

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