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Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Risk of Fournier's gangrene (necrotising fasciitis of the perineum) with Sodium-Glucose-Co-Transporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i)

Dear Healthcare professional,

AstraZeneca AB, Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, Janssen-Cilag and Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V, marketing authorisation holders of products containing SGLT2 inhibitors [Invokana (canagliflozin), Forxiga (dapagliflozin), Jardiance (empagliflozin), Steglatro (ertugliflozin)], in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Malta Medicines Authority, would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Post-marketing cases of Fournier´s gangrene (necrotising fasciitis of the perineum) have been associated with the use of SGLT2 inhibitors**
- **Fournier´s gangrene is a rare but serious and potentially life-threatening infection**
- **Urogenital infection or perineal abscess may precede necrotizing fasciitis**
- **Advise patients to seek urgent medical attention if they experience severe pain, tenderness, erythema, or swelling in the genital or perineal area accompanied by fever or malaise**
- **If Fournier's gangrene is suspected, stop the SGLT2 inhibitor and promptly start treatment (including antibiotics and surgical debridement).**

Background on the safety concern

SGLT2 inhibitors are indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. The following SGLT2 inhibitors are currently authorised in the EU: Edistride (dapagliflozin), Forxiga (dapagliflozin), Ebymect (dapagliflozin/metformin), Xigduo (dapagliflozin /metformin), Qtern (dapagliflozin / saxagliptin), Invokana (canagliflozin), Vokanamet (canagliflozin / metformin), Jardiance (empagliflozin), Synjardy (empagliflozin / metformin), Glyxambi (empagliflozin / linagliptin), Steglatro (ertugliflozin), Segluromet (ertugliflozin / metformin) and Steglujan (ertugliflozin / sitagliptin).

Cases of Fournier´s gangrene have been reported across the class of SGLT2 inhibitors. Although diabetes mellitus is a risk factor for the development of Fournier's gangrene, some of the post-marketing reports are considered possibly related to the use of SGLT2 inhibitors.

Fournier´s gangrene is known to occur almost exclusively in men. However, in association with SGLT2 inhibitors it was also reported in women.

The product information will be revised to list Fournier´s Gangrene as adverse reaction in section 4.8 and will also include respective warning statements in section 4.4 of the SmPC as outlined in the summary above.

Call for reporting

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are reminded to continue to report suspected adverse reactions associated with Sodium-Glucose-Co-Transporter 2 inhibitors (SGLT2i) in accordance with the national spontaneous reporting system. Report forms can be downloaded from www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and posted to Post-licensing directorate, Medicines Authority, Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000, Malta or sent by email to postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt. Some of the products might not be marketed in Malta.

Company contact point

Should you have any question or require additional information, please call Medical Information at:

Company	Product name	Email	Phone
AstraZeneca AB	Forxiga(*) Edistride Xigduo/Ebymect Qtern	alexia.farrugia@astrazeneca.com	+35622778115
Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH	▼ Synjardy ▼ Glyxambi ▼ Jardiance(*)	medinfo@dbl.boehringer-ingelheim.com	+353 1 295 9620 +44 1344 742579
Janssen-Cilag	▼ Invokana ▼ Vokanamet	Farmaco@its.jnj.com	+30 6974800729
Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V, the Netherlands	▼ Steglatro ▼ Steglujan ▼ Segluromet	malta_info@merck.com	+356 99917558 8007 4433

▼ Products subject to additional monitoring to allow quick identification of new safety information
(*) Products currently marketed in Malta

Yours faithfully,

Post-Licensing Directorate

Medicines Authority

Disclaimer

This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication has been submitted to you on behalf of AstraZeneca AB, Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH, Janssen-Cilag and Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V