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Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

Mavenclad (cladribine) – risk of serious liver injury and new recommendations about liver function monitoring

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Merck Healthcare KGaA in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Malta Medicines Authority would like to inform you about adverse events of liver injury under the treatment with Mavenclad:

Summary

- Liver injury, including serious cases, has been reported in patients treated with Mavenclad.
- Before initiating treatment, a detailed patient history of underlying liver disorders or episodes of liver injury with other medicines should be undertaken.
- Liver function tests including serum aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, and total bilirubin levels should be assessed prior to initiation of therapy in year 1 and year 2.
- During treatment, liver function tests should be conducted, and repeated as necessary. In case a patient develops liver injury, treatment with Mavenclad should be interrupted or discontinued, as appropriate.

Background on the safety topic

Mavenclad (cladribine) is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with highly active relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS).

Liver injury, including serious cases and cases leading to discontinuation of treatment, has been reported in patients treated with Mavenclad. A recent review of available safety data has concluded on an increased risk for liver injury following treatment with Mavenclad.

Most cases of liver injury concerned patients with mild clinical symptoms. However, in rare cases, a transient transaminase elevation exceeding 1000 units per litre and jaundice was described. Time to onset varied, with most cases occurring within 8 weeks after the first treatment course.

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The review of liver injury cases did not identify a clear mechanism. Some patients had a history of previous episodes of liver injury with other medicines or had underlying liver disorders. Data from clinical trials did not suggest a dose dependent effect.

Liver injury has been included in the product information of Mavenclad as an adverse drug reaction of uncommon frequency. In addition, the product information has been updated with new warnings and precautions regarding liver injury, including recommendations to obtain patient history for underlying liver disorders or previous liver injury, and to assess liver function tests prior to treatment initiation in year 1 and 2. The prescribers' guide and the patient guide of Mavenclad will be updated to include information about liver adverse events.
Patients should be advised to report immediately to their healthcare professional any signs or symptoms of liver injury.

Call for reporting

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicinal product is important to ensure patient safety. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system.
Report forms can be downloaded from www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and posted to ADR reporting/Post-Licencing Directorate/Medicines Authority, Sir Temi Zammit Buildings, Malta Life Science Parks, San Gwann, Malta or sent by email to postlicencing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt

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