Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Riociguat (Adempas®): New contraindication regarding treatment of patients with pulmonary hypertension associated with idiopathic interstitial pneumonias (PH-IIP)

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Dear Healthcare Professional,
Bayer Saudi LLC in agreement with the National Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Centre, Saudi Food and Drug Authority would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- Patients with pulmonary hypertension associated with idiopathic interstitial pneumonias (PH-IIP) should not be treated with riociguat.
- The RISE-IIP study, which evaluated efficacy and safety of riociguat in patients with symptomatic PH-IIP has been terminated early. Riociguat is not authorized for this indication.
- Interim results of RISE-IIP showed an increased risk of mortality and serious adverse events among subjects receiving riociguat compared to those receiving placebo. The available data do not indicate a clinically significant benefit in these patients.
- If any patients with PH-IIP are being treated with riociguat their treatment should be discontinued and their clinical status carefully monitored.
- The benefit-risk profile of Adempas in its approved indications remains positive.

Further information on the safety concerns and the recommendation

PH-IIP is a life-threatening and rare disease and differs in its underlying cause and patient characteristics from other forms of pulmonary hypertension such as pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH). Patients with PH-IIP are a high-risk patient population as they suffer both from pulmonary hypertension and idiopathic interstitial

pneumonias. Prognosis is poor as there are no approved treatments. According to estimates, over 20% of patients die within one year.
The RISE-IIP study was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter phase II study to investigate the efficacy and safety of riociguat in patients with symptomatic pulmonary hypertension associated with idiopathic interstitial pneumonias (PH-IIP).
Riociguat is not authorized for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension associated with idiopathic interstitial pneumonias (PH-IIP). RISE-IIP was recently terminated early on the recommendation of the Data Monitoring Committee (DMC).
An evaluation of the interim results concluded that the benefit risk balance of riociguat in patients with PH-IIP is negative. Therefore, patients with PH-IIP should not be treated with Adempas. The Adempas PIL will be updated to contraindicate the use of Adempas in patients with PH-IIP.

Adempas is approved for use in patients with:

Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH, WHO Group 4):

Adult patients who are inoperable CTEPH and persistent or recurrent CTEPH after surgical treatment to improve exercise capacity.

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH, WHO Group 1):

Adempas is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with PAH to improve exercise capacity. Efficacy was shown in patients on riociguat monotherapy or in combination with endothelin receptor antagonists or prostanoids.

Studies establishing effectiveness included predominately patients with WHO functional class II-III and etiologies of idiopathic or heritable PAH or PAH associated with connective tissue disease.

The benefit-risk profile of Adempas in its approved indications remains positive.

The information in this letter has been approved by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority.

The Summary of Products Characteristics (SPC) and patient leaflet of Adempas in Saudi Arabia will be updated shortly to reinforce the safety of treated patients.

Reporting adverse drug reactions

Healthcare professionals should report any suspected adverse reactions associated with use of Adempas in accordance with the national requirements via the national spontaneous reporting system, to:

National Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Centre
Toll free: 8002490000
Fax: +9661 1 2057662
E-Mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
Online: http://ade.sfda.gov.sa/
Or

Pharmacovigilance department in Bayer Saudi LLC:
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If you have any questions, or if you require any further information, please contact the medical information service of
Bayer Saudi LLC
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Email: pv.me@bayer.com

With kind regards,

Ibrahim Mohamed Ibrahim

Medical Advisor and QPPV Back-up

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