SFDA

Safety Communication

[12/06/2023]

Important Safety Information Update in the Product Information of Amphotericin B Lipid Complex.

The Saudi Food and Drug authority (SFDA) would like to notify healthcare professionals about potential risks of normochromic normocytic anemia and leukopenia associated with use of amphotericin B lipid complex.

Amphotericin B is an antifungal agent available in different formulations (i.e. conventional, liposomal, and amphotericin B lipid complex) varying by indication, dosing, and toxicity profile. It is approved by the SFDA for treatment of severe invasive candidiasis. It is also indicated as 2nd line therapy for management of severe systemic fungal infection for patients who did not respond, tolerate, or developed nephrotoxicity with conventional amphotericin B or other systemic antifungal agents. In addition, it is indicated as 2nd line for management of invasive aspergillosis, cryptococcal meningitis and disseminated cryptococcosis in HIV patients, fusariosis, coccidiomycosis, zygomycosis and blastomycosis.

We reviewed published literature and post marketing databases on the potential risk of pancytopenia during use of amphotericin B lipid complex. Our review found six published case reports describing pancytopenia that was associated with amphotericin B (occurred with liposomal amphotericin B). However, one cohort study assessed the hematological toxicities with amphotericin B formulations found significantly higher odds of leukopenia with amphotericin B lipid complex compared to non-lipid formulations (OR: 4.15; 95%CI: 1.31–13.39). In addition, we identified 10 spontaneous case reports of pancytopenia with amphotericin B lipid complex use in the World Health Organization (WHO) database reported from inception up to March 20th, 2023. Time to onset ranged from 1 to 19 days. The current product information of liposomal amphotericin B is labeled with neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and anemia, and the potential risk of pancytopenia with amphotericin B lipid complex cannot be ruled out.

Therefore, the SFDA requested a comprehensive signal evaluation report from the Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH) of amphotericin B lipid complex to assess potential risk of pancytopenia with the use of amphotericin B lipid complex. The MAH concluded that the potential risk of pancytopenia with amphotericin B formulations in general is biologically plausible. Based on the evidence from all the post marketing sources, the SFDA with MAH agreed to update the current product information with adding 'normochromic normocytic anemia' and 'leukopenia' in the "Undesirable Effects" section.

- **Please see the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for further information.**

Generics Name	Trade Name	Dosage form	MAH
Amphotericin B Lipid Complex	ABELCET®	Intravenous infusion	ACINO

Call for reporting:

The SFDA urges both healthcare professionals and patients to report ADRs related to use of any medication to the SFDA using the following contact information:

The National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPC):

Fax: +966-11-205-7662

SFDA Call Center: 19999

E-mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa

Website: https://ade.sfda.gov.sa

RMM: