# Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

18-Nov-2024

**Medroxyprogesterone Acetate (MPA): Increased Risk of Meningioma with High Doses and After Prolonged Use**

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Pfizer in agreement with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) would like to inform you of the following:

***Summary***

- **There is an increased risk of developing meningioma with high doses of medroxyprogesterone acetate (all injectable and ≥100 mg oral formulations (if available)), primarily after prolonged use (several years).**
- **For contraception or non-oncological indications:**
  - **Medicines containing high doses medroxyprogesterone acetate are contraindicated in patients with meningioma or a history of meningioma.**
  - **If meningioma is diagnosed in a patient treated with high doses medroxyprogesterone acetate, treatment must be stopped.**
- **For oncological indications:**
  - **If a meningioma is diagnosed in a patient treated with high doses medroxyprogesterone acetate, the need to continue the treatment should be carefully reconsidered, on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual benefits and risks.**
- **Patients treated with high doses medroxyprogesterone acetate should be monitored for signs and symptoms of meningioma in accordance with clinical practice.**

***Background on the safety concern***

Medroxyprogesterone acetate is available in both injectable and oral formulations for gynaecological (including contraception and endometriosis) and oncological indications. A table attached to this letter shows the formulations and indications available in Saudi Arabia.

Meningioma is a rare, most frequently benign tumour that forms from the meninges. Clinical signs and symptoms of meningioma may be non-specific and include changes in vision, hearing loss or ringing in the ears, loss of smell, headaches that worsen with time, memory loss, seizures or weakness in the extremities. While meningiomas are usually benign, their location may lead to serious consequences and may require surgery.

Based on results from a French epidemiological case-control study[1], an association between medroxyprogesterone acetate and meningioma has been observed. This study was based on data from the French National health data system (SNDS – Système National des Données de Santé) and included a population of 18, 061 women who had intracranial surgery for meningioma. Each case was matched to five controls per year of birth and area of residence (90, 305 controls). The exposure to medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg/3ml injectable was compared between women who had intracranial surgery for meningioma and women without meningioma. Analyses showed an excess risk of meningioma with the use of medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg/3 ml (9/18,061 cases (0.05%) vs. 11/90,305 controls (0.01%), odds ratio (OR) 5.55 (95% CI 2.27 to 13.56)). This excess risk seems to be driven by prolonged use (≥3 years) of medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg/3 ml. Although the relative risk of meningioma is significantly increased with the use of high dose medroxyprogesterone acetate, the absolute risks are very small.

No new safety concern regarding a risk of meningioma associated with the use of low dose (<100 mg) medroxyprogesterone and combination products containing medroxyprogesterone has been identified at this moment and therefore the recommendations do not apply for lower doses of oral formulations of MPA.

The product information for all relevant medroxyprogesterone acetate containing medicines will be updated accordingly and meningioma will be added as an adverse reaction with a frequency ‘not known’.

[1] Roland N, Neumann A, Hoisnard L, Duranteau L, Froelich S, Zureik M et al. Use of progestogens and the risk of intracranial meningioma: national case-control study BMJ 2024; 384 :e078078 doi:10.1136/bmj-2023-078078.

***Call for reporting***
Healthcare professionals should report adverse events in patients taking medicines containing medroxyprogesterone acetate to:

- The National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPC) at Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA):

SFDA Call Center: 19999
E-mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
Website: http://ade.sfda.gov.sa/

- Pharmacovigilance Department in the company:

E-mail: SAU.AEReporting@pfizer.com

***Company contact point***
*For more information, please contact Pfizer Medical Information: MedInfoMEandAfrica@pfizer.com*

*A table of presentations and pharmaceutical forms of MPA licensed in Saudi Arabia is attached to this Annex 1.*

| **Formulation** | **Route of Administration and Strengths** | **Indication** |
|---|---|---|
| DEPO-PROVERA | Suspension for intramuscular (IM) injection.<br>150 mg suspension for injection | Depo-Provera injectable suspensions (IM) are indicated for:<br>- Contraception<br>- Treatment of endometriosis<br>- Treatment of menopausal vasomotor symptoms<br>- Recurrent and/or metastatic breast cancer<br>- Recurrent and/or metastatic endometrial cancer<br>- Recurrent and/or metastatic renal cancer |

Sincerely,
Mostafa Mousa
Senior Medical Affairs Manager
Mostafa Mousa