SFDA SAFETY SIGNAL

"A signal is defined by the SFDA as reported information on a possible causal relationship between an adverse event and a drug, the relationship being unknown or incompletely documented previously. Usually more than a single report is required to generate a signal, depending upon the seriousness of the event and the quality of the information. A signal is a hypothesis together with data and arguments and it is important to note that a signal is not only uncertain but also preliminary in nature"

5-4-2021

Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) – Safety Signal of Panitumumab and the Risk of Panniculitis

*The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) recommends all health care professionals to be aware of the safety signal of **Panniculitis** associated with the use of **Panitumumab.** The signal has been originated as a result of routine pharmacovigilance monitoring activities.*

Introduction

Panitumumab is an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) antagonist indicated for the treatment of patient with EGFR expressing metastatic colorectal carcinoma with non-mutated (wild type) KRAS after failure of fluoro-pyrimidine, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan-containing chemotherapy [1]. Panniculitis refers to a group of conditions that involve inflammation of subcutaneous fat. Despite having very diverse causes, most forms of panniculitis have the same clinical appearance [2]. The aim of this review is to evaluate the risk of Panniculitis associated with the use of Panitumumab and to suggest regulatory recommendations if required.

Methodology

Signal Detection team at the National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC) of Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) performed a comprehensive signal review using its national database as well as the World Health Organization (WHO) database (VigiBase), to retrieve related information for assessing the causality between Panitumumab and Panniculitis [3]. We used the WHO- Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) criteria as standard for assessing the causality of the reported cases [4]

Results

Case Review: The number of resulted cases for the combined drug/adverse drug reaction are 3 global ICSRs as of January 7th 2021 [3]. The reviewers have selected and assessed the causality for all 3 ICSRs, which results in two probable cases and one un-assessable case due to lack of sufficient information.

Data Mining: The disproportionality of the observed and the expected reporting rate for drug/adverse drug reaction pair is estimated using information component (IC), a tool developed by WHO-UMC to measure the reporting ratio. Positive IC reflects higher statistical association while negative values indicates less statistical association, considering the null value equal to zero. The results of (IC= 2.0) revealed a positive statistical association for the drug/ADR combination, which means "Panniculitis" with the use of "Panitumumab" have been observed more than expected when compared to other medications available in WHO database [3].

Literature: During the literature screening, a relative article found supporting the signal. Domenico, Ciliberto, et al. reported two cases of forearm panniculitis following the use of Panitumumab. In both patients, clinical, laboratory and radiological evaluation documented the presence of a local panniculitis, probably related to panitumumab (Naranjo score: 6). After Panitumumab discontinuation and induction of antimicrobial + corticosteroid treatment, a remission of skin manifestations are noticed [5].

Conclusion

The weighted cumulative evidences identified from the reported cases, Data mining, and literature are sufficient to support a causal association between Panitumumab and the risk of Panniculitis. Health regulators and health care professionals must be aware of this potential risk and it is advisable to monitor any signs or symptoms in treated patients.

Report Adverse Drug Events (ADRs) to the SFDA

The SFDA urges both healthcare professionals and patients to continue reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs) resulted from using any medications to the SFDA either online, by regular mail or by fax, using the following contact information:

National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC)
Saudi Food and Drug Authority-Drug sector
4904 northern ring branch rd
Hittin District
Riyadh 13513 – 7148
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Toll free number: 19999
Email: NPC.Drug@sfda.gov.sa

References:

1. Vectibix, 2009. Panitumumab Saudi Summary of Product characteristics. Retrived from Eurs is Yours.
2. DermNet NZ.Org (2016). What is panniculitis. Retrieved from: https://dermnetnz.org/topics/panniculitis/ [Accessed 1/7/2021].
3. Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC) (2020), Vigilyze database; Available at: https://vigilyze.who-umc.org [Accessed 1/7/2021].
4. Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC) (2020), The use of the WHO-UMC system for standardized case causality assessment; Available at https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/safety_efficacy/WHOcausality_assessment.pdf?ua=1 [Accessed 1/7/2021].
5. Domenico, C., Antonella, I., Benedetto, C., Luigi, S., Antonio, C., Lidia, C., ... & Gallelli, L. (2019). Panitumumab induced forearm panniculitis in two women with metastatic colon cancer. Current drug safety, 14(3), 233-237.