Our ref : اشارتنا : ١٦-٠٣-٤٤٨

Date : 27/03/2016 التاريخ : ١٨/ جمادى الآخر /١٤٣٧هـ

NOVARTIS

BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors Glevic® (imatinib), Tasigna® (nilotinib),–Need to screen patients for hepatitis B virus before treatment due to risk of hepatitis B reactivation

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In agreement with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority and Novartis would like to inform you of the following:

Summary:

Cases of Reactivation of hepatitis B virus (HBV) have occurred in patients who are chronic carriers of HBV after they received BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs). Some cases of HBV reactivation resulted in acute hepatic failure or fulminant hepatitis leading to liver transplantation or a fatal outcome.

Recommendations:

- **Patients should be tested for HBV infection before initiating treatment with BCR-ABL TKIs.**
- **Consult experts in liver disease and in the treatment of HBV before treatment in patients with positive HBV serology (including those with active disease) is initiated and for patients who test positive for HBV infection during treatment.**
- **Closely monitor patients who are carriers of HBV requiring treatment with BCR-ABL TKIs for signs and symptoms of active HBV infection throughout therapy and for several months following termination of therapy.**

Background on the safety concern and recommendations:

A recent cumulative review of data from clinical trials and postmarketing experience has shown that HBV reactivation can occur in chronic HBV carriers, after they received BCR-ABL TKIs. Some of these cases included acute hepatic failure or fulminant hepatitis leading to liver transplantation or fatal outcome.

These case reports indicate that HBV reactivation may occur at any time during TKI treatment. Some of these patients had a documented history of hepatitis B, for other cases, the serologic status at baseline was not known. An increase in viral load or positive serology was diagnosed upon HBV reactivation.

HBV reactivation is considered a class-effect of BCR-ABL TKI, although the mechanism and the frequency of HBV reactivation during exposure is not known at this time.

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مكتب شركة نوفارتس كونسلتنغ إي جي المكتب العلمي
ترخيص وزارة التجارة رقم ٣

الرياض
ص.ب : ١٦٠٣٢
الرياض : ١١٤٦٤
تلفون : ٨٨٨٢ ٤٦٥
تليفاكس : ٨١٢٧ ٤٦٤

جدة
ص.ب : ٨٦٤٠
جدة : ٢١٤٩٢
تلفون : ٥٦٦٦ ٦٦٩
تليفاكس : ٣٥٣٤ ٦٦٣

الدمام
ص.ب :٦٥٠٣
الدمام :٣١٤٥٢
تلفون :٣١٧٤ ٨٣٤
تليفاكس: ٤٢٠٠ ٨٣٤

Our ref :

Date :

اشارتنا :

التاريخ :

NOVARTIS

As recommended by SFDA the summary of product characteristics (SmPC) and the package leaflet of all BCR-ABL TKIs will be updated to reflect the new safety information.

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

Call for reporting of adverse reactions:

Healthcare professionals are reminded to continue to report suspected adverse reactions associated with these products in accordance with the national spontaneous reporting system.

The National Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Center:
Toll free phone: 8002490000
Fax: +966112057662
E-mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
Or by online: https://ade.sfda.gov.sa

Or

Novartis Consulting AG.
Phone: +996112658100
Fax: +966112658107
Email: adverse.events@novartis.com

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, test results, any concomitant medication, onset and treatment dates.

Yours sincerely,

Malak Alowais
DS&E Responsible Deputy
Novartis Pharma Services AG

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الرياض	جدة	الدمام
ص.ب : ١٦٠٣٢	ص.ب : ٨٦٤٠	ص.ب :٦٥٠٣
الرياض : ١١٤٦٤	جدة : ٢١٤٩٢	الدمام :٣١٤٥٢
تلفون : ٨٨٨٢ ٤٦٥	تلفون : ٥٦٦٦ ٦٦٩	تلفون :٣١٧٤ ٨٣٤
تليفاكس : ٨١٢٧ ٤٦٤	تليفاكس : ٣٥٣٤ ٦٦٣	تليفاكس: ٤٢٠٠ ٨٣٤