Dear Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

Date: April 30, 2021

Subject: Olican® (fingolimod) – Updated recommendations to minimise the risk of drug-induced liver injury (DILI)

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Pharmascience Inc. in agreement with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) would like to inform you of important updated information to help minimize the risk of drug-induced liver injury (DILI) in patients treated with fingolimod.

Summary:

- Cases of acute liver failure requiring liver transplant and clinically significant liver injury have been reported in patients treated with fingolimod.
- The guidance for monitoring liver function and the criteria for discontinuation have been updated with additional details to minimise the risk of DILI:
  - Liver function tests including serum bilirubin should be performed before starting treatment and at months 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 on therapy and periodically thereafter until 2 months after fingolimod discontinuation.
  - In the absence of clinical symptoms, if liver transaminases are:
    - Greater than 3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN) but less than 5 times ULN without increase in serum bilirubin, more frequent monitoring including serum bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) should be instituted.
    - At least 5 times ULN or at least 3 times ULN associated with any increase in serum bilirubin, fingolimod should be discontinued. If serum levels return to normal, fingolimod may be restarted based on a careful benefit- risk assessment of the patient.
  - In the presence of clinical symptoms suggestive of hepatic dysfunction:

- Liver enzymes and bilirubin should be checked promptly and fingolimod should be discontinued if significant liver injury is confirmed.

Background:

Olican® (fingolimod) is indicated as single disease modifying therapy in highly active relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis for the following groups of adult patients and paediatric patients aged 10 years and older:

- Patients with highly active disease despite a full and adequate course of treatment with at least one disease modifying therapy.

or

- Patients with rapidly evolving severe relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis defined by 2 or more disabling relapses in one year, and with 1 or more Gadolinium enhancing lesions on brain MRI or a significant increase in T2 lesion load as compared to a previous recent MRI.

Following the most recent periodic review of safety data, three cases of liver failure requiring liver transplant have been reported in patients treated with fingolimod, including one case implying a strong causal relationship with the product. Cases of clinically significant liver injury have also be reported. Signs of liver injury, including markedly elevated serum hepatic enzymes and elevated total bilirubin, have occurred as early as ten days after the first dose and have also been reported after prolonged use.

During clinical development, elevations 3-fold the upper limit of normal (ULN) or greater in ALT occurred in 8.0% of adult patients treated with fingolimod 0.5 mg and elevations 5-fold the ULN occurred in 1.8% of patients on fingolimod. Fingolimod was discontinued if the elevation exceeded 5 times the ULN, recurrence of liver transaminase elevations occurred with rechallenge in some patients, supporting a relationship to fingolimod.

Hepatic enzyme increased is a very common adverse drug reaction of the product but due to the seriousness and the severity of recent reported cases, recommendations for discontinuation of the therapy and monitoring have been strengthen and clarify to minimize the risk of DILI. Bilirubin should be checked together with liver transaminase enzymes and liver tests function should be performed regularly until 2 months after fingolimod discontinuation. In case of symptoms suggestive hepatic dysfunction, fingolimod should be discontinued if significant liver injury is confirmed and treatment should not be resumed unless a plausible alternative aetiology for the signs and symptoms of liver injury can be established.

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

Reporting adverse events:

Healthcare professionals should report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of Olican® (fingolimod). Therefore, if you receive or observe any adverse reaction you can the following contacts:

Saudi Food and Drug Authority, National Pharmacovigilance Center
Unified Contact Center: 19999
Email: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
Or by online: https://ade.sfda.gov.sa

الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء, المركز الوطني للتيقظ:
مركز الاتصال الموحد: 19999
الايميل: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
أو عن طريق الإنترنت:
https://ade.sfda.gov.sa/

Pharmacovigilance Department, Pharmascience Inc.:
Tel: +966 11 293 1841
Fax: +966 11 293 1353
Mobile: 00966-548411162 / 00966-560006994
Email: pms.sa@pharmascience.com or thaar@pharmascience.com

Your faithfully,

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Bruce Valliant
Head of Pharmacovigilance and
Medical Information
Pharmascience Inc.

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Thaar Mohammed Al-Qahtani
Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance