

27 February 2024



Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

Clomifene citrate (Fertab) – risk of visual disorders associated in some cases with reversible or permanent/irreversible, partial or total, visual impairment (blindness)

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Oman Pharmaceutical Products Co. L.L.C. in agreement with SFDA would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Visual disorders such as blurred vision, reduced visual acuity, phosphenes, and scintillating scotomas (spots or flashes) are known risks associated with Clomifene.**
- **Recently new adverse reactions have been reported with the use of Clomifene: optic neuritis, ischemic optic neuropathy, central retinal vein occlusion, retinal detachment and vitreous detachment.**
- **These adverse drug reactions have in some cases led to reversible or irreversible, partial or total visual impairment (blindness), including after discontinuation of Clomifene, particularly when increasing the dosage or duration of treatment.**
- **At the start of treatment, the patient should be instructed that, if unusual visual disorders appear, she should immediately stop her treatment with Clomifene and inform her doctor.**
- **In case of visual disorders, a complete ophthalmological examination is necessary; If no cause other than Clomifene is identified for visual disturbance, Clomifene treatment should be permanently discontinued.**
- **History of visual disorders associated with the use of Clomifene (previous treatment cycle or current) constitute a contraindication to any further treatment.**

Background on the safety concern

Clomifene citrate is indicated for the treatment of ovulatory failure in women desiring pregnancy. Clomifene citrate is indicated only for patients in whom ovulatory dysfunction is demonstrated. Other causes of infertility must be excluded or adequately treated before giving Clomifene citrate.

Clomifene citrate is already known to induce eye and vision disorders. The exact mechanism of visual disorders is not fully understood.

Cases of optic neuritis, ischemic optic neuropathy, central retinal vein occlusion, retinal detachment and vitreous detachment have been reported post- marketing of Clomifene (spontaneous reports and literature) with a “rare” frequency in the case of optic neuritis and an “not known” frequency for the other adverse reaction.

These adverse reactions and their associated symptoms “diplopia, ocular pain and disorder of accommodation” have been reported as possibly related to the use of Clomifene, and sometimes associated with permanent/irreversible, partial or total loss of vision (blindness), including after discontinuation of treatment.

Analysis of reported cases did not identify risk factors or specific mechanism, despite longer duration and higher dosage than recommended in some cases. Therefore, the occurrence, severity and potential consequences of visual disorders cannot be predicted for each case.

Call for reporting

Please report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of Clomifene in accordance with the national requirements via the national spontaneous reporting system, to:

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>

Oman Pharmaceutical Products Co. L.L.C. Company contacts point

Pharmacovigilance Department – Saudi Arabia

Phone: +966533515006

Email: ksa-qppv@zynovapharma.com

Or by online: <https://www.omanpharma.com>

Sincerely,



Futun Aljumayi

Pharmacovigilance Specialist – KSA

References:

- 1- France National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM). Clomid 50mg, tablet: risk of serious visual disorders (blindness). [Internet]. 2023 Jun 27 [cited 2023 Jul 20]. Available from: <https://ansm.sante.fr/informations-de-securite/clomid-50-mg-comprime-risque-de-troubles-visuels-graves-cecite>
- 2- France National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM). CLOMID (Clomifene citrate): treatment should be discontinued if vision is impaired. [Internet]. 2023 Jun 27 [cited 2023 Jul 20]. Available from: <https://ansm.sante.fr/actualites/clomid-citrate-de-clomifene-le-traitement-doit-etre-arrete-en-cas-dalteration-de-la-vision>
- 3- Russom M, Pradeep B, Zeregabr M, Fessehazion K, Araya N. Blindness and retinal disorder associated with clomifene citrate: Cases series assessment. Clin Med Invest. 2017;2(3):1-4. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15761/CMI.1000133>
- 4- Clomid 50mg Tablet Summary of Product characteristics. Retrieved from electronic medicines compendium.