



Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

24. March .2024

Subject

Rhinathiol Plus (Promethazine hydrochloride + Carbocisteine) Restriction of oral formulation use in children less than 6 years of age (new contra indication, adverse events, warnings/precautions, and overdose in the Product Information)

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Sanofi CHC/ Opella Arabia Company LTD. In agreement with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

Based on new scientific evidence on the risks that outweigh the benefits of Rhinathiol Plus (Promethazine hydrochloride + Carbocisteine) in this population. The following changes been implied in the product information of the oral formulations of the above-mentioned product:

- **Extend the contraindication from children less than 2 years to children less than 6 years of age.**
- **Update the psychiatric and central nervous system adverse events section to include aggression, hallucination, and psychomotor hyperactivity in children less than 6 years of age.**
- **Update the overdose section to include intellectual disability and cognition deficit in case of overdose in children less than 6 years of age.**
- **Update the Warnings and Precautions section to reflect the above.**



Further information on the safety concern and the recommendations

Promethazine is a phenothiazine derivative. It is a first-generation antihistamine with significant sedative, anticholinergic, and some serotonin antagonist properties. Promethazine is described as a competitive histamine (H1 receptor) and α -adrenergic receptor antagonist.

As well, promethazine hydrochloride is a common ingredient of multi-compound cough and cold preparations.

The combination of “carbocisteine and promethazine” (Rhinathiol Plus) is indicated:

- **for obstructive airway disorder, cough (including, irritative cough, non-productive cough, nocturnal cough and persistent non-productive cough), increased bronchial secretion, and in sputum expectoration difficulty.**

Hence, a Benefit-Risk assessment was performed by Sanofi CHC on the use of Rhinathiol Plus (Promethazine hydrochloride + Carbocisteine) in children 2 to 5 years of age for any approved indication.

Review of the cumulative safety data in children between 2 to 5 years of age (both limits inclusive) led to the conclusion that the cumulative weight of evidence is sufficient to support a causal association between promethazine (and combinations) and safety concerns pertaining to psychiatric and central nervous system events. In the age group 6 to 17 years of age, the cumulative safety evidence was insufficient to support a causal association and confirms that the safety profile of oral formulations of promethazine-containing products in children/adolescents more than 6 years of age remains unchanged when used as per currently approved product information.

In this framework, Sanofi CHC considers that the risks outweigh the benefits for oral formulations of promethazine-containing products in children from 2 to 5 years of age (both limits inclusive).

Risk minimization measures:

This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC) is being distributed to further support Healthcare Professionals in prescribing and/or dispensing Rhinathiol Plus (Promethazine hydrochloride + Carbocisteine).

The oral formulation product information and package leaflet are being updated to reflect these changes. In the meantime, it is essential that you provide parents with advice on the appropriate use of these products for their children.



Call for reporting

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to National Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Center in SFDA.

Saudi Food and Drug Authority

National Pharmacovigilance Contact Center: 19999

Email: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa Or by **Online:** <https://ade.sfda.gov.sa>

QR Code:



Company contact point

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Rasha Alhuraibi

Country Safety Head

Sanofi CHC/ Opella Arabia Company LTD

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