Isotretinoin update on teratogenicity and neuropsychiatric disorders

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

01-FEB-2024

Dear Healthcare professional,

Pierre Fabre Dermatologie in agreement with the SFDA would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

Teratogenicity

- Oral isotretinoin is highly teratogenic and must not be used during pregnancy.
- Oral isotretinoin must be used in accordance with the conditions of a Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP) for all women of childbearing potential.
- Discuss the risks of oral isotretinoin-containing medicines with women before prescribing, using the revised and streamlined educational materials.

Neuropsychiatric disorders

- Cases of depression, depression-aggravated anxiety, and mood alterations have been reported rarely in patients taking oral isotretinoin.
- Advise patients taking oral isotretinoin that they may experience changes in their mood and/or behaviour and that they and their families should be alert to this and should speak to their doctor if this occurs.
- Monitor all patients treated with oral isotretinoin for signs and symptoms of depression and refer for appropriate treatment, if necessary. Special care should be taken in patients with history of depression.

Background on the safety concern

Curacne® is indicated in severe forms of acne (such as nodular and conglobate acne or acne at risk of permanent scarring) resistant to adequate courses of standard therapy with systemic antibacterial and topical therapy. Following a recent in-depth review of all relevant data, Pierre Fabre has strengthened information provided to patients and healthcare professionals (through the product information and educational materials) on teratogenicity and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Teratogenic risk

Oral isotretinoin is highly teratogenic.

Use of isotretinoin in women of childbearing potential must be in accordance with the conditions of a Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP).

Conditions of the PPP for the oral isotretinoin:

- The Pregnancy Prevention Programme for Curacne® has been streamlined to provide clear and concise information for both healthcare professionals and patients. Any use of isotretinoin in female patients at risk of pregnancy should be in the context of a Pregnancy Prevention

Programme. The conditions of the Pregnancy Prevention Programme require prescribers to ensure that every female patient understands that: oral isotretinoin pose a risk to an unborn baby and should not be taken during pregnancy;

- she must use effective contraception without interruption for at least one month before initiating therapy, throughout treatment and for 1 month after stopping treatment;
- she understands the need and accepts to undergo regular follow-up and pregnancy testing before, ideally monthly during treatment and 1 month after stopping
- she must stop taking isotretinoin immediately and consult a doctor urgently if she becomes pregnant or thinks she may be pregnant.
- A reminder card must be provided to the female patient to support the discussion with the prescriber.
- An acknowledgment from must be completed by the physician for all female patients to record the patient consent. This form must be signed by the prescriber and the patient.

Neuropsychiatric disorders

Depression, depression-aggravated anxiety, and mood alterations have been reported in patients treated with oral isotretinoin. The available evidence from published literature and individual case reports shows conflicting study results and the published studies suffer from a number of limitations. Therefore, it has not been possible to identify a clear increase in risk of psychiatric disorders in people who take oral retinoids compared to those that do not. Furthermore, it is recognised that patients with severe skin disorders are themselves at an increased risk of psychiatric disorders. It is recommended that patients who are taking oral isotretinoin are advised of the possibility that they may experience changes in their mood and behaviour and that they should speak to their doctor if this happens. Any patient who shows signs of depression should be referred for appropriate treatment, as necessary. Special attention should be given to patients treated with oral isotretinoin with a history of depression and all patients should be monitored for signs of depression.

The product information was updated to include the results of this review. The educational materials for Curacne® were updated and distributed to prescribing physicians, dispensing pharmacists and patients.

Call for reporting

Pierre Fabre would like to remind healthcare professionals about the importance of reporting Adverse reactions following the use of Curacne® in order to facilitate the continuous monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reaction to the National Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Centre (NPC):

o SFDA call center: 19999
o E-mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
o Website: http://ade.sfda.gov.sa/
o QR Code:

Company contact point

For any additional information regarding Curacne® or to report any safety concern to Pierre Fabre kindly contact Dr. Fatimah Alyahya (Pierre Fabre KSA QPPV): RAPMS@tamergroup.com