Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Feb 2025

Thiocolchicoside containing medicines for systemic use: - important information on restrictions associated with the risk of genotoxicity

Dear Healthcare Professional,

The General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance (PVGA) at the Egyptian drug authority (EDA) would like to Inform you **about important information on restrictions associated with the risk of genotoxicity**

Summary

- Contraindications for use of thiocolchicoside containing medicines for systemic use have been updated, and contraceptive measures have been extended.
- Thiocolchicoside containing medicines are contraindicated and should not be used:
  - In male patients who do not wish to use effective contraceptive measures during treatment with systemic thiocolchicoside and for 3 months after discontinuation of thiocolchicoside
  - In female patients of childbearing age who are not using effective contraceptive methods during treatment with systemic thiocolchicoside and for 1 month after stopping thiocolchicoside
- Thiocolchicoside for systemic use remains contraindicated also in women of childbearing age who do not use effective contraceptive methods during treatment and in pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- The updated information is being implemented in the respective medicinal product leaflets

Background on the safety concern

As already known, the results of preclinical studies have indicated a risk of genotoxicity related to the metabolite of thiocolchicoside for systemic use (i.e. oral and intramuscular forms).

In particular, in preclinical studies it has been shown that one of the metabolites of thiocolchicoside induces aneuploidy at concentration levels close to those observed in humans following the maximum recommended oral dose of 8 mg twice daily. Aneuploidy is considered a

risk factor for teratogenicity, embryo/fetal toxicity, spontaneous abortion and reduced male fertility and a potential risk factor for tumors.

The risk increases with long-term exposure and at high doses. For this reason, the medicine is already contraindicated in women of childbearing age who do not use contraceptive measures, and in pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Now the contraindication has been extended to:

-Men who are not willing to use effective contraceptive measures during treatment and for 3 months after stopping treatment, to avoid conception and any consequent risks to the fetus;

-Women of childbearing age who do not use effective contraceptive methods even for 1 month after stopping treatment, to avoid pregnancy and any consequent risks for the fetus.

The new information follows the recommendations of the guideline of the Safety Working Party (SWP, now Non-clinical Working Party (NcWP)) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on the duration of contraception following the end of treatment with drugs with a known risk of genotoxicity.

Healthcare professionals are reminded that the use of systemic thiocolchicoside is limited to the short-term adjuvant treatment of painful muscle contractures in acute spinal disorders in adults and adolescents aged 16 years and older. The maximum recommended daily doses and duration of treatment are, respectively, 16 mg per day for up to 7 days orally, 8 mg per day for up to 5 days intramuscularly.

References:

AIFA: https://www.aifa.gov.it/documents/20142/2254729/2024.10.28_NII_tiocolchicoside_IT.pdf

Call for reporting

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Egyptian reporting system:

Name: General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance

Email: pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg

Online reporting: https://vigiflow-eforms.who-umc.org/eg/med
QR Code:

PO Box: 11451

Hotline: 15301