HPRA
An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte
Health Products Regulatory Authority

Mavenclad (cladribine) – New liver monitoring requirements to minimise risk of serious liver injury

A requirement for liver monitoring before initiating and during treatment has been introduced for patients taking Mavenclad (cladribine). Liver injury, including serious cases and cases leading to discontinuation of treatment, have been reported in patients taking Mavenclad.

Mavenclad is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with highly active relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS). A review by the European Medicines Agency's (EMA's) Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) of available safety data has concluded there is an increased risk of liver injury following treatment with Mavenclad. Most cases of liver injury concerned patients with mild clinical symptoms. However, in rare cases, a transient transaminase elevation exceeding 1000 units per litre and jaundice was described. Time to onset varied, with most cases occurring within 8 weeks after the first treatment course. The review of liver injury cases did not identify a clear mechanism. Some patients had a history of previous episodes of liver injury with other medicines or had underlying liver disorders. Data from clinical trials did not suggest a dose-dependent effect.

Liver injury has now been included in the product information of Mavenclad as an adverse drug reaction of uncommon frequency. The product information* has been updated with new warnings and precautions regarding liver injury, including recommendations to obtain patient history for underlying liver disorders or previous liver injury, and to assess liver function prior to treatment initiation in year 1 and 2. In addition to the product information, educational materials (a prescribers guide and a patient guide), to support the safe prescribing and use of Mavenclad have also been updated. These materials are available from the HPRA website (www.hpra.ie).

Advice to Healthcare Professionals

- Before initiating treatment, a detailed patient history of underlying liver disorders or episodes of liver injury with other medicines should be undertaken.
- Patients should have liver function tests including assessment of serum aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, and total bilirubin levels prior to initiation of therapy and in year 1 and year 2. During treatment, liver function tests should be conducted, and repeated as necessary.
- In case a patient develops liver injury, treatment with Mavenclad should be interrupted or discontinued, as appropriate. Patients should be advised to seek urgent medical attention if they experience any clinical features.

Key Message

- Before initiating treatment with Mavenclad, a detailed hepatic patient history should be undertaken.
- Liver function tests should be performed prior to initiation of therapy in year 1 and year 2, and during treatment they should be repeated as necessary.
- Advise patients to seek urgent medical attention if they develop any clinical features of liver injury.
- If a patient develops liver injury, treatment with Mavenclad should be interrupted or discontinued, as appropriate.

** The approved product information is made up of the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) and Package Leaflet (PL) and is available at www.hpra.ie or www.ema.europa.eu.*