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GlaxoSmithKline
Stonemasons Way
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16
Ireland
Tel. +353-1-495 5000
Fax. +353-1-495 5105
www.gsk.com

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

VOLIBRIS ® (ambrisentan) must not be used in patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF).

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Summary

- Ambrisentan must not be used in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).
- A clinical study in patients with IPF has shown higher rates of respiratory hospitalizations, mortality events, and decreases in respiratory function in the ambrisentan group versus placebo.
- Patients with IPF who may have already been on treatment with ambrisentan should be assessed carefully and alternative therapies should be considered.

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The information contained in this letter has been endorsed by the European Medicines Agency.

Further information on the safety concern

Ambrisentan is a selective endothelin A receptor antagonist indicated for the treatment of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH, WHO Group 1), classified as WHO functional class II and III, to improve exercise capacity. Efficacy has been shown in idiopathic PAH (IPAH) and in PAH associated with connective tissue disease.

A study (ARTEMIS_IPF) in patients with IPF was conducted but was terminated early when it was determined that the primary efficacy endpoint could not be met.

In this study, patients were randomized to ambrisentan or placebo in a 2:1 ratio. A total of 492 patients (ambrisentan N=329, placebo N=163) were included, 11% of which had secondary pulmonary hypertension. Ninety events (27%) of IPF progression (including respiratory hospitalizations) or death were observed in the ambrisentan group compared to 28 events (17%) in the placebo group.

Evaluation of the primary endpoint components indicated that there were higher rates of respiratory hospitalizations, mortality events, and decreases in respiratory function in the ambrisentan group versus placebo.

In view of the available data from this study, and in agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA), please remember that ambrisentan must not be used for the

treatment of IPF. Ambrisentan should only be used in patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (WHO Group 1).
The product information for Volibris has been updated with information on the contraindication for the use in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). This contraindication also includes patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to IPF (WHO Group 3).

Call for reporting
Any suspected adverse reaction to Volibris should be reported to the Irish Medicines Board. The IMB can be contacted on (01) 676 4971.

Communication Information
Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact GSK on (01) 4955000 or e-mail Ireland.drugsurveillance@gsk.com.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Stephen McDonough, FFPM
GlaxoSmithKline (Ireland) Ltd
Stonemasons Way
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16