Roche

Important Safety Information on Tarceva® (erlotinib)

Date 25 May 2009

Subject: **Information on the association of erlotinib (Tarceva) with gastrointestinal perforation**

Dear Health Care Professional

Summary

- Patients receiving Tarceva are at increased risk of developing gastrointestinal perforations.
- Patients receiving concomitant anti-angiogenic agents, corticosteroids, NSAIDs and/or taxane based chemotherapy, or who have prior history of peptic ulceration or diverticular disease are at increased risk.
- Tarceva should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop gastrointestinal perforation.
- The Product information will be updated accordingly

The Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) will also be updated with information on bullous, blistering and exfoliative skin conditions including very rare cases (less than 1 per 10,000 patients) suggestive of Stevens-Johnson syndrome/Toxic epidermal necrolysis. Furthermore, information on corneal perforation or ulceration (less than 1 per 10,000 patients) will be added.

This information has been endorsed by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP).

Information on the safety concern

As agreed with the Irish Medicines Board, Roche Products (Ireland) Limited would like to inform you of important new safety information regarding the risk of developing gastrointestinal perforations associated with Tarceva and new safety warnings relevant to its use.

Erlotinib is an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR, also known as HER1) tyrosine kinase inhibitor. Tarceva is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after failure of at least one prior chemotherapy regimen. In combination with gemcitabine, Tarceva is also indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Roche has evaluated signals within clinical studies and post-marketing reports pertaining to gastrointestinal disorders, skin toxicities and ocular disorders with Tarceva. Consequentially, Roche would like to inform you of the following new Warnings and Precautions:

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Registered in Ireland
No. 214337

Gastrointestinal Perforation: Patients receiving Tarceva are at increased risk of developing gastrointestinal perforation, which was observed uncommonly. Patients receiving concomitant anti-angiogenic agents, corticosteroids, NSAIDs, and/or taxane based chemotherapy, or who have prior history of peptic ulceration or diverticular disease are at increased risk. Tarceva should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop gastrointestinal perforation.

Bullous and exfoliative skin disorders: Bullous, blistering and exfoliative skin conditions have been reported, including very rare cases suggestive of Stevens-Johnson syndrome/Toxic epidermal necrolysis, which in some cases were fatal. Tarceva treatment should be interrupted or discontinued if the patient develops severe bullous, blistering or exfoliating conditions.

Ocular Disorders: Very rare cases of corneal perforation or ulceration have been reported during use of Tarceva. Other ocular disorders including abnormal eyelash growth, keratoconjunctivitis sicca or keratitis have been observed with Tarceva treatment which are also risk factors for corneal perforation/ulceration. Tarceva therapy should be interrupted or discontinued if patients present with acute/worsening ocular disorders such as eye pain.

Roche is currently updating the SmPC and Package Leaflet to reflect this information accordingly.

The information contained in this letter has been reviewed and endorsed by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) and the Irish Medicines Board (IMB).

Any occurrence of serious and/or unexpected adverse reactions in patients receiving Tarceva should be reported to:

Drug Surveillance Centre
Roche Products (Ireland) Limited
3004 Lake Drive, Citywest
Naas Road
Dublin 24, Tel: 01-4690700; Fax: 01-4690793
E-mail: Ireland.drug_surveillance_centre@roche.com

Any suspected adverse reaction can also be reported to the pharmacovigilance section of the IMB in the usual manner using the on-line reporting function on the IMB website (www.imb.ie) or alternatively by contacting the IMB at 01 6764971.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of Tarceva, please contact medical information at Roche Products (Ireland) Limited, 3004 Lake Drive, Citywest, Naas Road, Dublin 24, Tel: 01-4690700; Fax: 01-4690791; Email: Ireland.druginfo@roche.com.

Yours sincerely,

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