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Eligard (leuprorelin acetate depot injection) – Risk of lack of efficacy due to incorrect reconstitution and administration process

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Lack of clinical efficacy may occur due to incorrect reconstitution of the product.**
- **There are reports of medication errors related to storage, preparation, and reconstitution of Eligard.**
- **Appropriate reconstitution of Eligard is a critical step in the administration of the product to ensure the safe and effective treatment of prostate cancer patients.**
- **It is important to be familiar with and adhere to the instructions for appropriate methods of reconstitution and administration before using the product.**
- **The device will be modified to simplify reconstitution and administration and the room storage temperature will be changed. Until approval of these changes the current instructions in section 6.6 of the SmPC and section 7 of the PL should be followed.**
- **The reconstitution can only be performed when the product is at room temperature.**
- **Testosterone levels should be evaluated in suspected cases of maladministration of Eligard.**

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Further information on the safety concern and the recommendations

The recommendations above follow reports of inappropriate technique in Eligard administration process, some of them associated with a lack of clinical efficacy in patients diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer.

A number of case reports indicated a lack of efficacy, as they include analytical data of an increase of testosterone levels above the castrate level (≤50 ng/dl) and/or an increase of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) levels.

A cumulative review of known cases of medication error events reported revealed a variety of errors during the preparation, mixing and administration of the product.

It is very important to review and understand the detailed instructions for appropriate reconstitution and administration of Eligard that are provided in Section 6.6 'Special precautions for disposal and other handling' of the Summary of Product Characteristics and Section 7 'Information for Healthcare Professionals' of the Package Leaflet. These instructions should be read before reconstituting and administering Eligard *(please refer to the latest approved SmPC and PL at national level).*

Background

Eligard is indicated for the treatment of hormone dependent advanced prostate cancer and for the treatment of high risk localized and locally advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer in combination with radiotherapy.

It is available in 6 monthly (45mg), three monthly (22.5mg) and one-monthly (7.5mg) formulations.

In most patients, androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) with Eligard results in testosterone levels below the standard castration threshold (< 50 ng/dL; < 1.7 nmol/L); in most cases, patients reach testosterone levels below < 20 ng/dL. Testosterone levels should be evaluated in suspected cases of maladministration of Eligard.

Reporting Adverse Events

All cases of incorrect storage, preparation, reconstitution, and administration of Eligard or any other adverse reactions should be reported in accordance with your national reporting system to the HPRA using a Yellow Card obtained either from the HPRA, or electronically via the website at www.hpra.ie. Cases of incorrect storage, preparation, reconstitution, and administration of Eligard or any other adverse reactions can also be reported to the HPRA by calling (01) 676 4971.

Reports can be sent either by phone, email or by fax to Astellas Pharma Co Ltd at:

Email: irishdrugsafety@astellas.com
Fax: 01 467 1550
Telephone : 01 467 1555

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Company Contact Point

For questions regarding the appropriate methods for preparation of Eligard, please contact Astellas medical information at the following number: (01) 467 1555

Annex 1
The current approved SmPC and PIL at national level. These documents can also be accessed on www.medicines.ie

Sincerely,

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