

May 2018

**Granulocyte colony-stimulating factors (G-CSFs) (Filgrastim, Lenograstim, Lipegfilgrastim and Pegfilgrastim): New warning regarding aortitis**

**Dear Healthcare Professional,**

In agreement with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) the Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAHs) listed below would like to inform you of the following:

**Summary**

- **There have been rare reports of aortitis in association with G-CSF products in cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy and healthy donors undergoing peripheral blood progenitor cell mobilisation.**
- **Healthcare professionals (HCPs) should advise patients of the signs and symptoms of aortitis and instruct them to seek medical attention if they develop fever, abdominal pain, malaise and back pain.**

**Background on the safety concern**

Literature and post marketing cases of aortitis in association with G-CSF treatment have been reported in patients with cancer and in healthy donors.

Aortitis symptoms may vary depending on the location and cause of inflammation. General symptoms may include fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and increased inflammatory markers (e.g. C-reactive protein and white blood cell count). In the majority of reported cases, aortitis was diagnosed by CT scan, and it generally resolved after the G-CSF was stopped. When considering if aortitis has been caused by a medicine, HCPs should consider G-CSF as one of the possible causative medicines.

The product information (Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) and Package Leaflet) of all G-CSF products is being updated to reflect the risk of aortitis.

The MAHs will continue to monitor for aortitis as part of their routine pharmacovigilance activities.

The overall benefit-risk profile for all the G-CSF products remains positive for the approved indications.

**List of MAHs and products:**

<b>Active substance</b>	<b>Invented Name</b>	<b>Marketing Authorisation Holders</b>
Filgrastim	Neupogen	Amgen Europe B.V.
	Grastofil	Apotex Europe B.V
	Tevagrastim	Teva
	Accofil	Accord Healthcare Ltd.

Active substance	Invented Name	Marketing Authorisation Holders
Pegfilgrastim	Neulasta	Amgen Europe B.V.
Lenograstim	Granocyte	Chugai Pharma UK
Lipegfilgrastim	Lonquex	Teva

### ***Call for reporting***

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax:+353 1 6762517. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie); E-mail: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie). Reports of suspected adverse reactions may also be made to the companies, contact details below.

### ***Company contact point***

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact:

MAH	Invented Name	E-mail address	Phone number	Address
Amgen Europe B.V	Neupogen	<a href="mailto:gbinfoline@amgen.com">gbinfoline@amgen.com</a>	+44 (0)1223 436 441	240 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WD, UK
Amgen Europe B.V.	Neulasta	<a href="mailto:gbinfoline@amgen.com">gbinfoline@amgen.com</a>	+44 (0)1223 436 441	240 Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WD, UK
Chugai Pharma UK	Granocyte	<a href="mailto:ChugaiPharmaGB@Pi-arm.co.uk">ChugaiPharmaGB@Pi-arm.co.uk</a>	+44 (0)208 987 5600	Mulliner House, Flanders Road, Turnham Green, London W4 1NN, U.K.
Teva	Lonquex	<a href="mailto:medinfo@tevauk.com">medinfo@tevauk.com</a>	+44 (0)20 7540 7117	Teva (UK) Ltd, Field House, Station Approach, Harlow CM20 2FB, UK
Teva	Tevagrastim	<a href="mailto:medinfo@tevauk.com">medinfo@tevauk.com</a>	+44 (0)20 7540 7117	Teva (UK) Ltd, Field House, Station Approach, Harlow CM20 2FB, UK
Apotex Europe B.V	Grastofil	<a href="mailto:A.RA@apotex.com">A.RA@apotex.com</a>	+ 31 (0)71 5243100 and fax + 31 (0)71 5243131	Archimedesweg 2, 2333 CN, Leiden, NL
Accord Healthcare Ltd	Accofil	<a href="mailto:medinfo@accord-healthcare.com">medinfo@accord-healthcare.com</a>	+44 (0) 1271 385257	Accord Healthcare Ltd., Euro House, Euro Business Park, Little Island, Cork, T45 K857, Ireland

Yours faithfully,



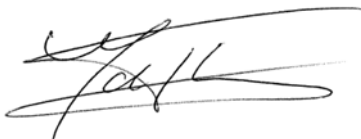
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