04th January 2016

Important information:
Viekirax, with or without Exviera: not recommended in Child-Pugh B patients

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Health Products Regulatory Authority, AbbVie would like to inform you of important new safety information related to the hepatic safety of Viekirax (ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir) with or without Exviera (dasubuvir).

Summary and Recommendations

- Hepatic decompensation and hepatic failure, including liver transplantation or fatal outcomes, have been reported post-marketing in patients treated with Viekirax with Exviera.
- Most patients with these severe outcomes had evidence of advanced or decompensated cirrhosis prior to initiating therapy.
- Therefore, Viekirax with or without Exviera is not recommended in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B) and remains contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh C).
- Patients with cirrhosis should be monitored
    - for clinical signs and symptoms of hepatic decompensation
    - and with hepatic laboratory testing including direct bilirubin levels at baseline, during the first 4 weeks of starting treatment and as clinically indicated thereafter.

- Patients receiving Viekirax and Exviera should be informed to watch for early symptoms of liver inflammation, liver failure or hepatic decompensation and to consult their healthcare provider without delay if such symptoms occur.
- Patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B) currently on treatment with Viekirax with and without Exviera may be continued on treatment after a discussion of the benefits and risks of continued treatment. Patients who continue on treatment should be monitored for evidence of hepatic decompensation as stated above.
- The Product Information for these products will be updated with the new recommendations.
- Patients who develop evidence of clinically relevant hepatic decompensation should discontinue treatment.

Further information on the safety concern

Viekirax is indicated in combination with other medicinal products for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in adults.

Exviera is indicated in combination with other medicinal products for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in adults.

- Twenty-six cases of hepatic decompensation and liver failure in patients treated with Viekirax with Exviera, with and without ribavirin, reported post-marketing world-wide have been assessed by a panel of independent hepatic experts as possibly or probably related to the treatment regimen.
- Of these 26 cases, 10 led to severe outcomes, i.e. liver transplantation or death, and these severe outcomes were reported mostly in patients with evidence of advanced cirrhosis.
- Although the specific role of antiviral therapy is difficult to establish due to background advanced liver disease, a potential risk cannot be excluded.
- It is estimated that 35,000 patient treatment courses of Viekirax with and without Exviera had been prescribed world-wide at the time these cases were reported.

Call for reporting

Healthcare professionals are reminded to continue to report suspected adverse reactions associated with these products in accordance with the national spontaneous reporting system.

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events in patients taking Viekirax with or without Exviera to HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517.
Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail:medsafety@hpra.ie.

Company contact points

You may also contact our Medical Information department at (01) 428 7900 or Irelandmedinfo@abbvie.com if you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or the safe and effective use of Viekirax with and without Exviera.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Costello-Smith
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