IMPORTANT RISK MINIMIZATION INFORMATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS PRESCRIBING OLUMIANT® (BARICITINIB)

This guide contains important information to assist the initial discussion with your patients when prescribing baricitinib. It should be read in conjunction with the enclosed Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

Olumiant is a selective and reversible janus kinase (JAK)1/2 inhibitor indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in adult patients and active juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in patients 2 years of age and older who have responded inadequately to, or who are intolerant to one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

The background information and points for discussion here provide context and appropriate risk management for key safety aspects of the prescribing information, namely:

- Pregnancy and breast feeding
- Infections
- Changes in lipid parameters
- Venous Thromboembolism
- Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events
- Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

As part of the initial discussion with your patients, please:

- Provide a **Patient Alert Card** to each patient and explain that it contains important information they should be aware of before and during treatment with baricitinib.
- Advise them that the Card should be read in conjunction with the **Patient Information Leaflet.**

For Adults:

The recommended dose of baricitinib is 4 mg once daily.
A dose of 2 mg once daily is recommended for patients:

- At higher risk of venous thromboembolism, major adverse cardiovascular events (MACEs), and malignancy
- Aged 65 years and older, and
- With a history of chronic or recurrent infections.

A dose of 4 mg once daily may be considered for patients who do not achieve adequate control of disease activity with 2 mg once daily dose.

A dose of 2 mg once daily should be considered for patients who have achieved sustained control of disease activity with 4 mg once daily and are eligible for dose tapering.

For JIA (children 2 years of age and older):

The recommended dose of baricitinib is 4 mg once daily for patients weighing 30 kg or more.

For patients weighing 10 kg to less than 30 kg, the recommended dose is 2 mg once daily.

Consideration should be given to discontinuing treatment in patients who show no evidence of therapeutic benefit after 12 weeks of treatment.

Pregnancy and Breast Feeding

Please discuss these points with your female patients if they are of child bearing potential:

- **Baricitinib must not be used during pregnancy.**
  There is insufficient experience with baricitinib at this time to determine whether it can be safely used in pregnancy.
- **Baricitinib should not be used in women who are breast feeding or intend to breast feed.**
  As there is no information on the excretion of baricitinib into human milk, it is unknown if it is safe to use during breast feeding.

As a result, it is important to:

- **Ask** patients if they are, might be, or intend to become pregnant, or are breast feeding prior to prescribing baricitinib. If a planned pregnancy is considered, baricitinib treatment should be stopped.
- **Advise** women to use effective contraception both during treatment and for at least 1 week after discontinuing treatment, taking into account the short half-life of baricitinib.
- **Advise** patients to inform you immediately if they think they could be pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed in order to facilitate the appropriate discussions on the potential risks.

These points are in line with independent expert EULAR recommendations* (See below)

Background pre-clinical safety information

As described in section 4.6 and 5.3 of the SmPC, animal studies showed reduced foetal growth and produced skeletal malformations at exposures approximately 10 times the human exposure.

As there are no adequate data on the use of baricitinib in human pregnancy, the implications of these non-clinical findings on use in women are not known. Therefore, the advice provided on use in pregnancy is given as a precautionary measure.

EULAR Recommendations

The EULAR "Points to Consider for Use of Antirheumatic Drug Before Pregnancy, and During Pregnancy and Lactation" provides independent expert advice to support family planning discussions and could provide another useful reference source.

* Götestam Skorpen C et al. The EULAR points to consider for use of antirheumatic drugs before pregnancy, and during pregnancy and lactation. Ann Rheum Dis. 2016;75(5):795-810

Infections

Baricitinib increases the potential risk of infections, and viral reactivation.
Consistent with usual practice in treating patients with RA, it is important to instruct patients to seek immediate medical attention if signs or symptoms suggesting infection appear, in order to ensure rapid evaluation and appropriate treatment.

Prior to initiating Olumiant, it is recommended that all patients, particularly paediatric patients, be brought up to date with all immunisations in agreement with local current immunisation guidelines.

As there is a higher incidence of infections in the elderly and in the diabetic populations in general, caution should be used when:

- Treating the elderly and patients with diabetes.

  Baricitinib should only be used in patients 65 years of age and older if no suitable treatment alternatives are available.

If an infection develops, monitor the patient carefully and:

- Temporarily interrupt baricitinib in case of herpes zoster infection or for any infection that does not respond to standard therapy. Do not resume baricitinib treatment until the infection resolves.
- Screen patients to rule out active tuberculosis and active viral hepatitis before starting baricitinib.
- Do not use live, attenuated vaccines during, or immediately prior to, baricitinib therapy.

Changes in Lipid Parameters

In RA clinical trials, dose-dependent increases in LDL and HDL cholesterol were observed at 12 weeks with no change in the LDL/HDL ratio. Lipid levels remained stable after 12 weeks. The long term consequences of these changes are unknown.

As a result of these considerations, it is important to:

- Assess lipid parameters approximately 12 weeks following initiation of baricitinib therapy.
- Manage patients according to clinical guidelines for hyperlipidaemia thereafter.
- Correct elevations in LDL cholesterol with statin treatment, if necessary.

Venous Thromboembolism

Baricitinib increases the risk of venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism (PE).

In patients with known VTE risk factors other than cardiovascular or malignancy risk factors, baricitinib should be used with caution. VTE risk factors other than cardiovascular or malignancy risk factors include previous VTE, patients undergoing major surgery, immobilisation, use of combined hormonal contraceptives or hormone replacement therapy, and inherited coagulation disorder.

As a result, it is important to advise patients to inform you immediately if any of the following symptoms are experienced:

- Swelling or pain in one leg
- Warmth or redness in one leg
- Shortness of breath which is unexpected
- Rapid breathing
- Chest pain

Patients should be re-evaluated periodically during baricitinib treatment to assess for changes in VTE risk.

Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events

There is a potentially increased risk of MACE in patients with certain risk factors using JAK inhibitor treatment, including baricitinib.

As a result, baricitinib should only be used if no suitable treatment alternatives are available, in patients:

- 65 years of age and older,
- who are current or past long-term smokers, and
- with other cardiovascular risk factors.

Lymphoma and Other Malignancies

Lymphoma and other malignancies have been reported in patients receiving JAK inhibitors, including Olumiant.

As a result, baricitinib should only be used if no suitable treatment alternatives are available, in patients:

- over 65 years of age,
- who are current or past long-term smokers, or
- with other malignancy risk factors (for example, current malignancy or history of malignancy).

Call for reporting

We remind you of the importance of reporting any suspected adverse reactions, including medication errors or product complaints, related to Olumiant® (baricitinib) to your local competent authority.

Please report to the HPRA via their Pharmacovigilance website: www.hpra.ie

When reporting, please provide as much information as possible. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Alternatively, to report adverse events or product complaints among patients taking baricitinib, please contact Lilly Ireland at: 01 664 0446.

Company contact point

This communication is not intended as a complete description of the risks associated with the use of baricitinib. Please refer to the attached Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for a complete description of risks.

Please contact Lilly at: 01256 315000, if you have any questions about the information in this letter or the safe and effective use of baricitinib.

To retrieve, or print the patient alert card for Ireland go to the HPRA website at https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medicines/medicines-information/find-a-medicine/

PP-BA-IE-0107 March 2024
V5 HPRA Approval 11-Mar-2024