

8th June 2021

Venclyxto®▼(venetoclax) film coated tablets: Updated recommendations on tumour lysis syndrome (TLS) in CLL patients

Dear Healthcare Professional,

AbbVie in agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Fatal cases of TLS have been observed even in patients receiving the lowest venetoclax dose used in dose-titration schedule.**
- **TLS is a known risk of venetoclax.**
- **Strict adherence to dose titration and TLS risk minimisation measures as outlined in the SmPC is required for all patients.**
- **A patient card will be provided to prescribing haematologists to be given to each patient.**

Background on the safety concern

Venetoclax is a selective inhibitor of the B cell lymphoma-2 (BCL-2) protein which restores programmed cell death in cancer cells. It is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with previously treated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) as monotherapy or in combination with rituximab and in previously untreated CLL in combination with obinutuzumab.

The administration of venetoclax can cause rapid reduction in tumour burden, and thus poses a risk for TLS at initiation and during the dose-titration phase in all CLL patients.

Rapid reduction of tumour volume can lead to metabolic abnormalities which can sometimes progress to clinically toxic effects, including renal insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmias, seizures, and death (i.e., clinical TLS). Fatal cases of TLS were reported in the postmarketing setting in CLL patients treated with venetoclax. Some of these events have occurred in patients receiving a single dose of venetoclax 20 mg (the lowest dose used at initiation and during the dose-titration phase) and in patients with low-to-medium TLS risk.

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The SmPC is revised to reflect the updated recommendations and emphasize the importance of strict adherence to the TLS risk minimization measures for **all** CLL patients, regardless of the tumour burden and other known risk factors for TLS.

To minimize the risk of TLS in CLL patients, prescribers should:

- Assess patient-specific factors for level of TLS risk including comorbidities, particularly reduced renal function, tumor burden, and splenomegaly prior to first dose of venetoclax
- Provide prophylactic hydration and anti-hyperuricaemics to all patients prior to first dose of venetoclax
- Perform blood chemistry monitoring and tumour burden category assessment
- Follow recommended dose modifications and actions in case of blood chemistry changes or symptoms suggestive of TLS related to venetoclax
- Provide each patient with the Patient card (which will be distributed to prescribing haematologists). This card will include the importance of hydration and a list of symptoms of TLS which should prompt the patient to seek immediate medical attention in case of their occurrence.

Call for reporting

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance; website: www.hpra.ie.

▼ Venclxyto is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information.

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 Venclxyto.

Annexes

The revised product information will be available on www.ema.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,



Karine Egan



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