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Reaksi

DRUG SAFETY NEWS

Mission: This publication provides information and recommendations to healthcare professionals to enhance communication of drug safety updates, raise awareness of adverse drug reactions reported, and stimulate additional adverse drug reaction reporting.

This is a bimonthly publication by the Drug Safety Monitoring Centre, National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB), Malaysia.

In This Issue:

TO REPORT AN ADVERSE DRUG REACTION

Online

1. Visit www.bpfk.gov.my.
2. Click on ADR Reporting and Product Complaints.
3. Click to report as a healthcare professional online or via hardcopy.
4. Submit the form once completed.

Mail

1. Print out and complete the ADR form available from our website.
2. Mail or fax to:
   The Drug Safety Monitoring Centre, Centre for Post Registration of Products, National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau, Ministry of Health, PO Box 319, Jalan Sultan, 46730 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Telephone

03-7883 5400
(ext. 8460/ 8461/ 8463)

Fax

03-7956 7151

Methylphenidate: Risk of Priapism

Background

Methylphenidate may in rare cases cause prolonged and painful erections (priapism), sometimes requiring surgical intervention, in male patients of any age. Review of the postmarketing reports and literature by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) showed that priapism usually developed some time after patients started taking the drug, after an increase in dose, or during a period of drug withdrawal.

Priapism occurs when blood in the penis becomes trapped, leading to an abnormally long-lasting and sometimes painful erection.

Methylphenidate is a central nervous system stimulant used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Patients who take methylphenidate and develop erections lasting longer than four hours should seek immediate medical treatment. If not treated right away, priapism can lead to permanent damage to the penis.

Local scenario

In Malaysia, there are 12 registered products containing methylphenidate. It is listed in the Ministry of Health Drug Formulary under category A (to be prescribed by consultants or specialists only).

The Drug Safety Monitoring Centre, NPCB has received a total of 32 ADR reports related to methylphenidate with 48 adverse events. There were no reports of priapism or related events in Malaysia. Adverse events reported included rash and other skin reactions, increase in liver enzymes, nausea, vomiting, and psychiatric disorders such as agitation.

Direct Healthcare Professional Communications (DHPCs) have been approved by the NPCB in April and July 2014 to inform healthcare professionals of this safety issue. A directive has also been issued for the package inserts of all products containing methylphenidate to be updated with information on the risk of priapism.

Advice to healthcare providers:

- There is a rare risk of priapism associated with the use of methylphenidate.
- All male patients and their caregivers should be counselled on the signs and symptoms of priapism and the importance of seeking immediate medical treatment if it occurs.
- Patients using methylphenidate should **not** stop taking it without first talking to their healthcare professionals.
- All ADRs suspected to be related to methylphenidate use should be reported to the Drug Safety Monitoring Centre, NPCB.

Filgrastim and Pegfilgrastim: Risk of Capillary Leak Syndrome

Background

Post-marketing reports of capillary leak syndrome (CLS) have been received worldwide for the recombinant human granulocyte colony-stimulating factors (G-CSF), filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. CLS has been reported in recipients of **filgrastim** undergoing chemotherapy and a healthy donor undergoing peripheral blood progenitor-cell mobilisation. Additionally, it has also been reported in recipients of **pegfilgrastim** undergoing chemotherapy.

CLS is a rare condition where fluid leaks from the circulatory system into the interstitial space, leading to hypotension, oedema, hypoalbuminaemia and haemoconcentration. It may be fatal unless promptly diagnosed and managed.

Local scenario

There are eight (8) products containing filgrastim and two (2) containing pegfilgrastim registered in Malaysia. Both medicines are indicated to reduce the duration of neutropenia and incidence of febrile neutropenia in certain conditions, such as patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy *(please refer to the individual product package inserts for full details).*

Since the year 2000, the Drug Safety Monitoring Centre has received 21 adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports related to **filgrastim,** with 36 adverse events. From the reports, there were adverse events related to the CLS symptoms of hypoalbuminaemia and hypotension, with patients experiencing joint pain, muscle weakness, abdominal cramp, generalised weakness and dizziness. Other adverse events reported include back pain, shortness of breath, rash and chest discomfort.

For **pegfilgrastim**, a total of 6 reports with 7 adverse events were received since 2007. There were no events related to the symptoms of CLS. Reported ADRs include medicine ineffective, rash, conjunctival haemorrhage, hearing loss, and anaphylactic reaction.

Direct Healthcare Professional Communications (DHPCs) were approved by the NPCB in July and August 2014 regarding this safety issue. The package inserts of all products containing filgrastim and pegfilgrastim will be updated with information and advice on the risk of CLS.

Advice to healthcare providers:

- Capillary leak syndrome (CLS) has been reported after granulocyte-colony stimulating factor administration.
- CLS is characterised by hypotension, hypoalbuminaemia, oedema and hemoconcentration, often with rapid onset.
- Patients who develop symptoms of CLS should be closely monitored and receive standard symptomatic treatment immediately, which may include a need for intensive care.
- All ADRs suspected to be related to filgrastim- and pegfilgrastim-containing products should be reported to the Drug Safety Monitoring Centre, NPCB.