KIARA
Where SCIENCE meets NEED

IMPORTANT MEDICINE SAFETY INFORMATION

RECOMMENDED CALCULATIONS OF CONTRACEPTION DURATION AFTER COMPLETION OF THERAPY TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF EMBRYOTOXICITY AND TERATOGENICITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF GENOTOXIC ANTICANCER MEDICINES (INCLUDING POTENTIAL METABOLITES).

02 July 2024

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In collaboration with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), Kiara Health (Pty) Ltd would like to inform you about recommended calculations of contraception duration after completion of therapy with genotoxic anticancer medicines (including potential metabolites).

Background on the safety concern

The risk of genotoxic anticancer medicines (and their potential genotoxic metabolites) - mediated reproductive adverse events including, embryotoxicity and teratogenicity has been identified. In male patients, genotoxic anticancer medicines and their potential metabolites may cause DNA damage in the sperm, potentially resulting in adverse events in the embryo or foetus of a female sexual partner. In female patients, these products may directly affect the embryo or foetus; or may cause DNA damage in the oocytes.

To minimise the risk of drug-induced heritable DNA damage and to ensure that genomic integrity of gametes at the time of conception is maintained, patients are generally advised to use highly effective contraception during treatment and for an adequate period of time following the end of treatment with genotoxic medicines.

The Professional Information (PI) and Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) of genotoxic anticancer medicines listed below are or will be updated to appropriately reflect the revised safety information.

Advice to healthcare professionals

- Female patients and female sexual partners of male patients receiving genotoxic anticancer medicines, should be advised to use highly effective contraception, until the end of relevant systemic exposure to the genotoxic compound including potential genotoxic metabolites (i.e. five half-lives after the last dose) plus 6 months (equivalent to one folliculogenesis cycle).
- Female patients and female sexual partners of male patients receiving pure aneugenic pharmaceuticals, should be advised to use highly effective contraception, until the end of relevant systemic exposure to the products (i.e. five half-lives after the last dose) plus 1 month. It should be noted that only dividing oocytes are affected by aneugenicity.
- Male patients should be advised to use highly effective contraception, until the end of relevant systemic exposure to the pure aneugenic or genotoxic compound including potential genotoxic metabolites (i.e. five half-lives after the last dose) plus 90 days (equivalent to one sperm cycle).
- Healthcare professionals are urged to report any adverse drug reactions (ADRs) or product quality problems associated with the use of the products listed below to Kiara Health (Pty) Ltd, via the following contact details: 010 329 0600 or customercare@kiarahealth.com or to SAHPRA via the eReporting link: https://primaryreporting.who-umc.org/ZA available on the SAHPRA website (www.sahpra.org.za).

- Alternatively, please complete the ADR reporting form accessible via the SAHPRA website at https://www.sahpra.org.za/document/adverse-drug-reactions-and-quality-problem-reportingform/ and email it to adr@sahpra.org.za .
- Additionally, reporting can be done via the Med Safety App. The App can be downloaded into a smart mobile phone through Google Play or App Store. For more information on Med Safety App, please visit https://medsafety.sahpra.org.za/.
- For more information on ADR reporting of products listed below, please contact the SAHPRA Pharmacovigilance unit at pvqueries@sahpra.org.za or Kiara Health (Pty) Ltd, via the following contact details: 010 329 0600 or customercare@kiarahealth.com
- For product specific information regarding the half-life, as well as recommendations regarding duration for use of contraception after completion of genotoxic anticancer therapy, please contact Kiara Health (Pty) Ltd.

Associated products

Product	Active Ingredient	Registration Number
RIBOMUSTIN 25 mg	bendamustine hydrochloride	45/26/1127
RIBOMUSTIN 100 mg	bendamustine hydrochloride	45/26/1128
VELBOR IV	bortezomib	50/26/0960
PEMTORI IV 100 mg	pemetrexed	50/26/0868
PEMTORI IV 500 mg	pemetrexed	50/26/0869

Yours sincerely

Bets Warden (GE Warden)

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Date: 2024.07.02 10:29:36 +02'00'

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Responsible Pharmacist

Kiara Health (Pty) Ltd