boletim de FARMACOVIGILÂNCIA

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2017 Key Messages

- **METHYLPREDNISOLONE (INJECTABLE) CONTAINING COW'S MILK DERIVED LACTOSE AS EXCIPIENT:** In patients who are allergic to cow's milk proteins, it can originate symptoms that can be mistaken for worsening of the **hypersensitivity** condition for which it is being used. If, during treatment of an acute allergic condition with these injectables, symptoms worsen or new allergic manifestations appear, the methylprednisolone injectable should be discontinued and adequate treatment given.
  Bulletin 9-2017

RISK OF INFECTION

- **DAAV (direct acting antivirals):** Due to risk of reactivation, **testing for hepatitis B virus** is recommended at the start of treatment for hepatitis C.
  Bulletin 1-2017
- **BRENTUXIMAB VEDOTIN:** Potentially serious infections can occur while on this monoclonal antibody, including **cytomegalovirus reactivation**.
  Bulletin 7-2017
- **TEMOZOLAMIDE (TMZ):** Though uncommonly, serious cases of **herpetic meningoencephalitis** can supervene in patients on this alkylating agent.
  Bulletin 7-2017

- **METHYLPHENIDATE** can be associated with the occurrence of **priapism**.
  Bulletin 2-2017
- **LOPERAMIDE:** QT interval prolongation, torsades de pointes, other serious ventricular arrhythmias and cardiac arrest can occur with excessive doses **(abuse or misuse)** of this medicine.
  Bulletin 5-2017

PREGNANCY

- **FLUCONAZOLE:** On account of a possible increase in the risk of abortion and stillbirths, the use of this antifungal agent should be reserved for exceptional situations.
  Bulletin 4-2017

- **VANCOMYCIN: New recommendations for use** in the treatment of serious infections caused by Gram-positive bacteria.
  Bulletin 11-2017
- **MACROLIDES and ACETAZOLAMIDE:** They may be associated with **acute generalized exanthematic pustulosis**.
  Bulletin 12-2017
- **VITAMIN K ANTAGONISTS:** Calciphylaxis can occur not only with warfarin, but also with other coumadin anticoagulants.
  Bulletin 3-2017

INTERACTIONS

- **FLUCLOXACILLIN AND HIGH DOSES OF PARACETAMOL:** Especially in patients with serious renal impairment, malnutrition or sepsis, this therapeutic combination may very rarely be associated with the occurrence of **high anion gap metabolic acidosis** (HAGMA).
  Bulletin 12-2017
- **GABAPENTIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEPRESSORS, SUCH AS OPIOIDS:** Respiratory depression can rarely occur, especially in patients with respiratory, neurological or renal compromise and/or elderly.
  Bulletin 10-2017
- **LEFLUNOMIDE / TERIFLUNOMIDE:** Can cause **falsely decreased ionized calcium** levels. In case of doubt, total albumin levels should be determined.
  Bulletin 8-2017

INDEX CARD

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Ulipristal (Esmya®)
cases of serious liver injury

Quick Read
Due to a risk of serious liver injury, and pending the results of a risk-benefit assessment by the European Medicines Agency, a set of temporary risk minimization measures has been designed (highlighted below).

Ulipristal acetate acts directly in the endometrium as a synthetic selective progesterone receptor modulator. It has a partial antagonistic effect on tissue-specific progesterone. It is indicated in pre-operative and intermittent treatment of moderate to serious symptoms from uterine myomas in adult women of childbearing age. Ulipristal reduces the size of myomas by inhibiting cell proliferation and inducing apoptosis.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is undertaking a safety review of Esmya® following reports of serious liver injury, including cases of acute liver failure requiring a transplant. As soon as this review is concluded the final results will be disseminated and the recommendations for use updated. Meanwhile, to better protect patients and pending the results of the assessment, the following temporary measures have been agreed upon:

- Treatment with Esmya® should not be started in new patients or in patients who have concluded a treatment cycle.
- In patients on Esmya®, liver function should be monitored at least monthly and 2-4 weeks after treatment discontinuation.
- Should a patient develop signs or symptoms suggestive of hepatic injury, her condition should be immediately assessed and liver function tests undertaken. Patients on Esmya® who present with transaminase levels > 2 times the upper limit of normal should have their treatment discontinued and be closely followed (for nausea, vomiting, right hypochondrium pain, anorexia, lethargy, jaundice, etc.).

Sílvia Duarte

Educational Materials published in the Infomed product information webpage

Click on the links.

INN Medicinal product	Target	Materials Online publication date
Adalimumab Humira	**Patients and/or caregivers**	**Administration guide (pen)** (to be handed out by the healthcare professional) 23-01-2018
Adrenaline Epipen	**Physicians:** pneumologist, paediatrician, and allergy specialist prescribers.	**Checklist**
	Patients and/or caregivers	**Educational brochure** (to be handed out by the prescribing physician) 30-01-2018
Aflibercept Eylea	**Physicians:** experienced in intravitreal injection and who prescribe and administer *Eylea*.	**Safety information** 03-01-2018
Avelumab Bavencio	**Physicians:** oncology department directors and oncologists or groups of oncologists designated by oncology department directors.	**Frequently asked questions**
	Patients	**Information brochure** **Alert card** (to be handed out by the healthcare professional) 23/01/2018
Daptomycin Cubicin	**Physicians:** internal medicine, intensive care, surgery, infectious diseases, paediatrics, cardiology and dermatology specialists.	**Posology guide** 04-01-2018
Elvitegravir + Cobicistate + Emtricitabine + Tenofovir Stribild	**Physicians:** infectious diseases specialists, internists and paediatricians who follow HIV-infected patients, and hospital paediatrics department directors.	**Recommendations on kidney and bone risk management** 30-01-2018
Golimumab Simponi	**Physicians:** rheumatologists, gastroenterologists and internists.	**Safety information for prescribers** 30-01-2018
Infliximab Remicade	**Physicians:** in neonatology and obstetrics departments.	**Safety information**
	Physicians: potential prescribers (rheumatology, gastroenterology and paediatric gastroenterology), neonatology and obstetrics departments.	**Safety information** **Stickers: for the Pregnancy Booklet and for the Baby's Vaccine Record Booklet** 30-01-2018
Nivolumab Opdivo	**Physicians:** pneumologists, dermatologists, urologists, haematologists, oncologists and internists.	**Adverse immune reaction control guide**
	Patients	**Alert card** (to be handed out by the doctor or by the hospital pharmacy) 03/01/2018

Compiled by Magda Pedro and José Sequeira

Communications to Healthcare Professionals published on the Infarmed webpage

Click on the links.

INN Medicinal product	Target	Comunication Online publication date
Gadolinium-containing contrast agents: **Gadobenic acid** Multihance **Gadopentetic acid** Magnevist **Gadoteric acid** Dotarem **Gadoxetic acid** Primovist **Gadobutrol** Gadovist **Gadodiamide** Omniscan **Other** (not available in Portugal)	**Pharmacists:** in charge of pharmaceutical services in hospitals with a radiology department. **Physicians:** imaging specialists. **Other:** Portuguese Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Society, General Medical Association, professionals in charge of procurement for hospitals or other centres with a radiology department.	**Updated recommendations following analysis on gadolinium retention in the brain and other tissues** 15-01-2018
Products containing Mycophenolate Mofetil or Mycophenolic acid: Ácido Micofenólico Accord Ácido Micofenólico Teva CellCept Micofenolato de Mofetil Accord Micofenolato de Mofetil Aristo Micofenolato de Mofetil Aurovitas Micofenolato de Mofetil Generis Myfenax Myfortic Mycophenolate Mofetil Teva	**Pharmacists:** pharmaceutical service directors in all hospitals. **Physicians:** nephrology, urology, gastroenterology, cardiology, surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, general surgery, haematology, rheumatology, internal medicine, pneumology, neurology and GYN/OBS department and clinical directors, in all hospitals.	**Contraception recommendations changed** 22-01-2018

Compiled by José Sequeira

What do they mean?

ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction
EMA	European Medicines Agency
MA	Marketing Authorization
PIL	Patient Information Leaflet
PRAC	Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (EMA)
SmPC	Summary of Product Characteristics