

July 2020

RMS19590 / (3) 30303 / 10

Dr O Kerr
Consultant
Dermatology Department
Belfast City Hospital
51 Lisburn Road
BELFAST
County Antrim BT9 7AB

Dear Dr Kerr,

Important safety information – Methotrexate

Minimising the risk of overdose from patients incorrectly taking methotrexate daily instead of once weekly for autoimmune diseases

Medicines containing methotrexate are used in two sets of indications:

- Autoimmune conditions including, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and Crohn's disease
- Oncology

Patients with autoimmune diseases must be told that methotrexate must only be taken once a week.

To reduce the risk of severe adverse reactions and even death from the incorrect use of methotrexate, risk minimisation materials have been formally approved by the regulatory authority (MHRA) and are being made available to increase awareness and improve the monitoring and management of these risks.

1. Educational materials for healthcare professionals

The materials can be obtained from the medical information services of the group of companies listed below, who are Marketing Authorisation holders for these medicines. Electronic copies of the materials are available from company websites and/or the electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc>. If you require additional information, please contact the individual company.

65 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ
Tel: +44 20 7457 2841 Fax: +44 20 7866 7900
Email: paul.fleming@britishgenerics.co.uk

2. Patient reminder cards

Enclosed with this letter are eight patient reminder cards for you to give to patients who are receiving treatment once-weekly. The day of the week for taking methotrexate should be written on the card. Patient reminder cards are also being introduced within medicine packs.

Reporting of side effects

Please continue to report suspected side effects to the MHRA through the Yellow Card scheme.

Please report:

- all suspected side effects that are serious or result in harm. Serious reactions are those that are fatal, life-threatening, disabling or incapacitating, those that cause a congenital abnormality or result in hospitalisation, and those that are considered medically significant for any other reason
- all suspected side effects associated with new drugs and vaccines identified by the black triangle ▼

It is easiest and quickest to report side effects online via the Yellow Cards website - <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or via the Yellow Card app available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Alternatively, prepaid Yellow Cards for reporting are available by writing to FREEPOST YELLOW CARD (no other address details necessary); by emailing yellowcard@mhra.gov.uk; at the back of the British National Formulary (BNF); by telephoning freephone 0800 731 6789 (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday); or by downloading and printing a form from the Yellow Card website.

Paul Fleming

Technical Director



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Company	Medical Information contact details
Accord-UK Ltd and Accord Healthcare Limited	medinfo@accord-healthcare.com Telephone: 01271 385 257 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/3203 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/1603
Advanz Pharma	medicalinformation@advanzpharma.com Telephone: 08700 703 033 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/2507
Morningside Healthcare Limited	medicalenquiry@morningsidehealthcare.com Telephone: 01164 780 322 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/2890
Orion Pharma (UK) Ltd	uk.medicalinformation@orionpharma.com Telephone: 01635 520 300 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/99
Pfizer	www.pfizermedicalinformation.co.uk Telephone: 01737 924 284 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/105
Members of the Sandoz group including Sandoz Ltd	Sandozgb@EU.propharmagroup.com Telephone: 01276 698 101 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/company/2502

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