25th October 2013

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

JEVTANA (cabazitaxel): Potential for medication error in the preparation of Jevtana

Dear Health Care Professional,

sanofi-aventis groupe, in association with the European Medicines Agency and the Medicines Authority would like to remind you of the appropriate preparation instructions for Jevtana (cabazitaxel):

Summary

- Sanofi has recently been informed of reconstitution errors cases with Jevtana (cabazitaxel) that could lead to overdose, with an actual dose delivered that is 15 % to 20% higher than the prescribed dose.
- Jevtana reconstitution requires a two-step dilution. Both the cabazitaxel concentrate vial and the solvent vial contain an overfill to compensate for liquid loss during preparation.
- The overfill ensures that after dilution of the concentrate with the **entire** contents of the accompanying solvent vial, there is an initial diluted solution, called "premix" or "concentrate-solvent mixture", containing 10 mg/mL Jevtana.
- The error in the administered dose occurred due to an inappropriate reconstitution in the first step where the nominal volume of the solvent vial (4.5 mL) was transferred to the concentrate vial, instead of the entire content, leading to a higher dose of Jevtana delivered;
- The anticipated complications of overdose would consist of exacerbation of adverse reactions as bone marrow suppression and gastrointestinal disorders (see section 4.9 of the SmPC).

	Concentrate vial	Solvent for dilution vial
	Photo	Photo
nominal volume Content of cabazitaxel per nominal volume	1.5 mL 60 mg cabazitaxel	4.5 mL
actual fill volume Content of cabazitaxel per fill volume	1.83 mL 73.2mg cabazitaxel	5.67 mL

Appropriate preparation instructions

The correct preparation of the infusion solution of Jevtana requires two dilution steps:

1- **Initial dilution of the concentrate**: **Always transfer the ENTIRE content of the solvent vial** to the concentrate in order to reach a concentration of 10 mg/mL in the premix.

2- **Preparation of the infusion solution**: From this premix, the required volume should be taken and injected into the infusion container in accordance with the intended dose of Jevtana to be administered to the patient.

Where an automated software system is used to prepare the preparation, it must be ensured that the system is set up to allow withdrawal of the entire content of the solvent vial for adding to the concentrate vial, in order to ensure a concentration of 10 mg/ml in the premix

Further information

Jevtana 60 mg concentrate and solvent for solution for infusion was approved in the European Union on 17th March 2011 and is indicated in combination with prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of metastatic hormone-refractory prostate cancer (mHRPC) in patients previously treated with a docetaxel containing regimen. The product was launched in the EU in April 2011.

Detailed information on Jevtana is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency (EMA): http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/
Please share this information with relevant colleagues and health care personnel.

Call for reporting
Healthcare professionals should report any adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of Jevtana to Sanofi- Aventis Malta Ltd., 3rd Floor, Avantech Building, St. Julian's Road, San Gwann SGN 2805. Tel: 21493022, fax 21493024

Alternatively any suspected adverse reactions can also be reported to

Any suspected adverse reactions and medication errors can be reported via the national Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) reporting system. Report forms can be downloaded from www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and posted to Medicines Authority Post-licensing Directorate, 203, Level 3, Rue D'Argens, Gżira GŻR 1368, MALTA, or sent by email to postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt

Company contact point
If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Medical Information Services at Sanofi-Aventis Malta Ltd, 3rd Floor, Avantech Building, St. Julian's Road, San Gwann SGN 2805. Tel: 21493022, Fax: 21493024

Yours Sincerely

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