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Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Thiocolchicoside-containing products for systemic use (MuscoRil 4mg hard capsule, Relief Capsules Hard 4mg, Relief Solution for Injection 4mg/2ml, Coltramyl Tablets 4mg): IMPORTANT REMINDER on restrictions and warnings linked to the potential risk of genotoxicity

▼This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information.

Dear Healthcare professional,

Cherubino Limited, Neofarma Pharmaceuticals Limited and Sanofi Malta Limited in agreement with European Medicines Agency and Medicines Authority would like to remind you of the following important information regarding indication, treatment regimen, contra-indications and warnings.

Summary

- **Preclinical findings indicate a risk of genotoxicity with systemic and oral Thiocolchicoside**
- **Thiocolchicoside use is contraindicated and must not be prescribed to pregnant or lactating women and to women of childbearing potential if they are not using effective contraception**
- **Women of childbearing potential should be carefully advised of the need for effective contraception while taking the medicine, so as to avoid pregnancy and any consequent risk to the fetus**
- **Healthcare professionals are reminded that use of systemic thiocolchicoside is restricted to short-term adjuvant treatment of painful muscle contractures of spinal pathology from 16 years onwards. The maximum recommended daily doses and durations of treatment (16 mg daily for up to 7 days by mouth, 8 mg daily for up to 5 days intramuscularly) must be respected.**

Background on the safety concern

In non-clinical studies, one of the thiocolchicoside metabolites was shown to induce aneuploidy at concentrations close to those seen in humans who take the maximum recommended oral dose of 8 mg twice daily. Aneuploidy is reported as a risk factor for teratogenicity, embryo-foetotoxicity/spontaneous abortion and impaired male fertility and a potential risk factor for cancer. The risk increases with long-term exposure.

A safety review of this product, which was completed in January 2014, introduced new restrictions (including changes to the indication and a maximum recommended daily dose and duration of treatment), warnings and contraindications. These changes were included in SPC and PIL and communicated to healthcare professionals on 7th February 2014. A DHPC and specific educational materials (Healthcare Professionals Guide and Patient card) were disseminated respectively on 7th February 2014.

Preliminary evidence from ongoing drug utilisation studies conducted in some European countries have shown a limited level of adherence in clinical practice to the authorised conditions of use.

Further information

- To further support Healthcare Professionals in prescribing and dispensing Thiocolchicoside, educational tools (Healthcare Professionals Guide and Patient Card) are being re-distributed with this DHPC. Healthcare professionals are requested to distribute the Patient Card to the concerned patients

- Further information is available on the website of the Medicines Authority: *http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/rmm*

Call for reporting

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Healthcare professionals are reminded to continue to report suspected adverse reactions associated with Thiocolchicoside-containing products for systemic use in accordance with the national spontaneous reporting system. 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, Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000, Malta or sent by email to postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt

Company contact point

Should you have any question or require additional information, please contact:

Company	Product name	Email	Phone
Cherubino Limited	Relief Capsules Hard 4mg Relief Solution for Injection 4mg/2ml	annalisa@cherubino.com.mt	+356 21343270
Neofarma Pharmaceuticals Limited	Coltramyl	Info@neofarma.com.mt Rp@neofarma.com.mt	+356 20109494
Sanofi Malta Limited	Muscoril 4mg Capsules	Graziella.gravino@sanofi.com	+356 21493022

Yours faithfully,

Post-Licensing Directorate
Medicines Authority

Disclaimer

This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication has been submitted to you on behalf of Cherubino Limited, Neofarma Pharmaceuticals Limited and Sanofi Malta Limited.