Ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids suspended during ongoing EMA review of liver injury risk

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Information on ulipristal acetate

- Ulipristal acetate is a medicine used to treat moderate to severe symptoms of uterine fibroids (non-cancerous tumours of the womb), in women who have not reached the menopause
- Ulipristal acetate was used for up to 3 months prior surgery in women to remove the fibroids and was also used long-term but with treatment breaks in other women.

In Malta ulipristal acetate is authorised through centralised and national procedures:

Active Ingredients	Product Name	Pharmaceutical Form	Classif-cation	Authorisation Number	MAH/license holder
Ulipristal acetate 5mg	Esmya 5mg	Tablet	POM	EMEA/H/C/002041	Gedeon Richter (UK) Ltd
Ulipristal acetate 5mg	Ulipristal G.L. 5mg Tablets	Tablet	POM	MA993/00301	G.L. Pharma GmbH

Information from the EMA about risk of liver injury

The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) started a review on ulipristal acetate 5-mg following the request of the European Commission. The review was started following a recent case of liver injury, which led to liver transplantation in a patient taking the medicine.

This review will focus on ulipristal acetate 5-mg. Ulipristal acetate is also authorised as a single-dose medicine for emergency contraception (ellaOne and other trade names) and no concern about liver injury is associated with these dosage forms.

Risk of rare but serious liver injuries linked to the use of ulipristal acetate medicines for the treatment of uterine fibroids was a known risk since a 2018 review carried out by the EMA. Following the review, measures to minimise the risk were implemented but as the new case of serious liver injury occurred despite adherence to these measures, the EMA is starting a new review.

Since authorised in 2012, ulipristal acetate has been administered to over 900,000 patients leading to cases of serious liver injury, including 5 cases which led to liver transplantation.

PRAC's recommendations are:

- Women being treated with ulipristal acetate 5-mg (Esmya and generic medicines) should stop treatment while safety review is ongoing
- No new patients should start treatment with the medicines, which will be temporarily suspended throughout the EU during the review.

PRAC's recommendations will be forwarded to the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) which will adopt an opinion.

In Malta

For Healthcare Professionals

- Contact your patients currently being treated with ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids as soon as possible and stop their treatment. Consider other treatment options as appropriate.
- Advise patients to immediately report signs and symptoms of liver injury (such as nausea, vomiting, right hypochondrial pain, anorexia, asthenia and jaundice)
- Liver function testing should be performed 2–4 weeks after treatment has stopped as described in the product information for the medicines.
- Do not start any new patients on ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids.

A DHPC letter about the safety concern has been disseminated to HCPs in Malta. Archived DHPC letters are available online at http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/dhpc.

Information for patients

- Patients treated with ulipristal acetate 5-mg for uterine fibroids (non-cancerous tumours of the womb) should stop treatment during EMA review of safety data. The review has started following a case of serious liver injury resulting in liver transplantation that has occurred in a woman taking ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids
- If you are taking ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids, contact your doctor for advice on other possible treatments
- If you have any question or concern related to your treatment, consult your doctor or your pharmacist
- If you develop symptoms of liver injury such as tiredness, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, yellowing of the skin, darkening of the urine, nausea and vomiting, contact your doctor
- There is no concern about liver injury with the single-dose emergency contraceptive containing ulipristal acetate (ellaOne and other trade names).

For more information, visit the European Medicines Agency's Ulipristal acetate referral page

Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to maintain vigilance on Ulipristal acetate medicinal products. Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (side effects) may be reported using the Medicines Authority Form and sending it to Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000 or online to **http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal** or to the marketing authorisation holder or their local representatives.

Post-Licensing Directorate
Medicines Authority

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to regularly check the Medicines Authority website for product safety updates as these are issued on an ongoing basis.

Feedback Form

The Medicines Authority thanks you for the time taken to read this safety circular. The dissemination of safety circulars is an important process whereby Regulatory Authorities can communicate important issues with respect to the safety of medicines, in order to protect and enhance public health

The Medicines Authority kindly invites your anonymous feedback about the regulatory action being communicated. This may be returned by folding this formt (address side up), stapling the ends and then posting (no stamp required)

Feedback:

We thank you for your interest and look forward to hearing your opinion.

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Pharmacovigilance Section

Post-Licensing Directorate

Medicines Authority

Sir Temi Żammit Buildings

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