Early Access to Medicines Scheme – Treatment protocol – Information for patients

Introduction

The aim of the Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) is to provide earlier availability of promising new unlicensed medicines (medicines that do not have a marketing authorisation) to UK patients that have a high unmet clinical need. The medicines included in the scheme are those that are intended to treat, diagnose or prevent seriously debilitating or life threatening conditions where there are no adequate treatment options. More information about the scheme can be found here: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Innovation/EarlyaccesstomedicinesschemeEAMS/index.htm

The information below is intended for you, the patient, and is provided by the pharmaceutical company that manufactures the medicine. This medicine does not yet have a drug licence (also called a marketing authorisation). More information about medicines licensing can be found here: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Adviceandinformationforconsumers/MymedicineFromlaboratorytopharmacyshelf/Licensingmarketingauthorisation/index.htm

This medicine can be prescribed for individual patients to meet specific needs provided they are given sufficient information about the medicine to make an informed decision. Informed consent should be obtained from you prior to treatment.

This information is provided to help you decide with your doctor on whether to use the medicine and helps explain how to use the medicine in accordance with the pharmaceutical company's instructions for safe and proper use. Whilst you are using this medicine, data will be collected on the use and safety profile of the medicine, to ensure that the benefits of taking the medicine outweigh any potential risks.

Information for the patient:

Sacubitril/valsartan 50 mg film-coated tablets
Sacubitril/valsartan 100 mg film-coated tablets
Sacubitril/valsartan 200 mg film-coated tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

1. WHAT THESE TABLETS DO

Sacubitril/valsartan is a medicine which is being used in Early Access Medicines Scheme (EAMS) to treat heart failure in adults. It can reduce the risk of dying from heart failure or being hospitalised for heart diseases.

Sacubitril/valsartan is a new medicine known as an angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor. Sacubitril/valsartan delivers two active substances, sacubitril and valsartan. The combined effect of these substances helps to treat heart failure

Heart failure occurs when the heart is weak and cannot pump enough blood to the lungs and the rest of the body. The most common symptoms of heart failure are breathlessness, fatigue, tiredness and ankle swelling. Sacubitril/valsartan also helps to improve the symptoms of heart failure.

2. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN

Do not take Sacubitril/valsartan:
- if you are allergic to sacubitril, valsartan or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6). If you think you may be allergic, talk to your doctor before taking sacubitril/valsartan.
- if you are taking another type of medicine called an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor (for example enalapril, lisinopril, ramipril). ACE inhibitors are used to treat high blood pressure or heart failure. If you have been taking an ACE inhibitor, wait for 36 hours after taking the last dose before you start to take sacubitril/valsartan (see “Taking other medicines”).
- if you have ever had a reaction called angioedema (swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat, difficulties in breathing) when taking an ACE inhibitor or an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) (such as valsartan, telmisartan, irbesartan).
- if you have diabetes or impaired kidney function and you are treated with a blood pressure lowering medicine containing aliskiren (see “Taking other medicines”).
- if you have severe liver disease
- if you are pregnant (see “Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility”).

If any of the above applies to you, do not take sacubitril/valsartan and talk to your doctor.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Sacubitril/valsartan

- if you are being treated with an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) or aliskiren (see “Do not take Sacubitril/valsartan”).
- if you ever had a reaction called angioedema (swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat, difficulties in breathing) (see “Do not take Sacubitril/valsartan” and section 4).
- if you have low blood pressure or are taking any other medicines that reduce your blood pressure (for example, a diuretic) or are suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea.
- if you have severe kidney disorder.
- if you are suffering from dehydration or are taking certain types of pain killers called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs) (see “Other medicines and Sacubitril/valsartan”).
- if you are taking any medicine that increases the amount of potassium in your blood. Such medicines include potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium, potassium-sparing medicines and heparin. It may be necessary for your doctor to check the amount of potassium in your blood at regular intervals during sacubitril/valsartan treatment.
- if your kidney artery has narrowed.

If any of the above applies to you, tell your doctor or pharmacist before you take Sacubitril/valsartan.

Children and adolescents
This medicine is not for use in children or adolescents aged below 18 years. This is because it has not been studied in this age group.

Other medicines and Sacubitril/valsartan
Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained with or without a prescription. It may be necessary to change the dose, to take other precautions, or even to stop taking one of the medicines. This is particularly important for the following medicines:
- ACE inhibitors. Do not take sacubitril/valsartan with ACE inhibitors. If you have been taking an ACE inhibitor, wait 36 hours after taking the last dose of the ACE inhibitor before starting to take sacubitril/valsartan (see “Do not take Sacubitril/valsartan”). If you stop taking Sacubitril/valsartan, wait 36 hours after taking your last dose of sacubitril/valsartan before starting an ACE inhibitor.
- other medicines used to treat heart failure or lower blood pressure, such as angiotensin receptor blocker or aliskiren.
- some medicines known as statins that are used to lower high cholesterol levels (for example arorvastatin).
- sildenafil, a medicine used to treat erectile dysfunction or lung hypertension.
- medicines that increase the amount of potassium in the blood. These include potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium, potassium-sparing medicines and heparin.
- certain types of painkiller called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs) or selective cyclooxygenase-2 (Cox-2) inhibitors. If you are taking one of these, your doctor may want to check your kidney function when starting or adjusting treatment (see “Warnings and precautions”).
- lithium, a medicine used to treat some types of psychiatric illness.
- furosemide, a medicine belonging to the type known as diuretics, which are used to increase the amount of urine you produce.
- nitroglycerine, a medicine used to treat angina.
- some types of antibiotic (rifamycin group), ciclosporin (used to prevent rejection of transplanted organs) or ritonavir (used to treat HIV/AIDS).
- metformin, a medicine used to treat diabetes.

If any of the above applies to you, tell your doctor or pharmacist before you take Sacubitril/valsartan.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Pregnancy

Do not take sacubitril/valsartan if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby. You must not become pregnant while taking Sacubitril/valsartan. If you are a woman, you will need to use effective contraception in order to avoid becoming pregnant during your treatment with sacubitril/valsartan and for one week after your last dose.

Use of similar medicines has been associated with serious harm to the unborn child. It is therefore important to check with your doctor immediately if you think you may have become pregnant during sacubitril/valsartan treatment.

Breast-feeding

Sacubitril/valsartan is not recommended for mothers who are breast-feeding. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or about to start breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

Before you drive a vehicle, use tools or operate machines, or carry out other activities that require concentration, make sure you know how sacubitril/valsartan affects you. If you feel dizzy or very tired while taking this medicine, do not drive a vehicle, cycle or use any tools or machines.

3. HOW SHOULD SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN BE TAKEN

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

You will usually start by taking 50 mg or 100 mg twice a day (one tablet in the morning and one tablet in the evening). Your doctor will decide your exact starting dose based on which medicines you have been taking previously. Your doctor will then adjust the dose depending on how you respond to the treatment until the best dose for you is found.

The usual recommended target dose is 200 mg twice a day (one tablet in the morning and one tablet in the evening).

Swallow the tablets with a glass of water. You can take sacubitril/valsartan with or without food.

If you take more sacubitril/valsartan than you should

If you have accidentally taken too many sacubitril/valsartan tablets, or if someone else has taken your tablets, contact your doctor immediately. If you experience severe dizziness and/or fainting, tell your doctor as quickly as possible and lie down.

If you forget to take Sacubitril/valsartan

It is advisable to take your medicine at the same time each day. However, if you forget to take a dose, you should simply take the next one at the scheduled time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you stop taking Sacubitril/valsartan

Stopping your treatment with sacubitril/valsartan may cause your condition to get worse. Do not stop taking your medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

- **Some symptoms need immediate medical attention. Stop taking sacubitril/valsartan and call your EAMS treating physician straight away if you noticed any of the following:**

- swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat, which may cause difficulties in breathing or swallowing. These may be signs of angioedema (Uncommon – may affect up to 1 in 100 people).

Other possible side effects:
If any of the side effects listed below becomes severe, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):
- low blood pressure (dizziness, light-headedness)
- high level of potassium in the blood (shown in a blood test)
- decreased renal function (renal impairment)

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):
- cough
- dizziness
- diarrhoea
- low level of red blood cells (shown in a blood test)
- tiredness
- (acute) renal failure (severe kidney disorder)
- low level of potassium in the blood (shown in a blood test)
- headache
- fainting
- weakness
- feeling sick (nausea)
- low blood pressure when switching from sitting or lying to standing position
- gastritis (stomach pain, nausea)
- spinning sensation
- low level of sugar in the blood (shown in a blood test)

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):
- allergic reaction with rash and itching
- dizziness when switching from sitting to standing position

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor who is treating you under the early access medicines scheme. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN SHOULD BE STORED

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
Do not store above 25°C.
Protect from moisture. Store in original package.
Do not use any sacubitril/valsartan pack that is damaged or shows signs of tampering.
Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. MORE ABOUT YOUR MEDICINE

What sacubitril/valsartan contains

- The active substances are sacubitril and valsartan.
- The other ingredients in the tablet core are microcrystalline cellulose, low-substituted hydroxypropylcellulose, crospovidone, magnesium stearate (vegetable origin), talc and silica colloidal anhydrous.
- The 50 mg and the 200 mg tablet coating contains hypromellose, titanium dioxide (E171), Macrogol 4000,talc, iron oxide red (E172) and iron oxide black (E172).
- The 100 mg tablet coating contains hypromellose, titanium dioxide (E171), Macrogol 4000, talc, iron oxide red (E172) and iron oxide yellow (E172).

What sacubitril/valsartan looks like and contents of the pack
Sacubitril/valsartan 50 mg film-coated tablets are pale violet oval tablets with “NVR” on one side and “LZ” on the other side.
Sacubitril/valsartan 100 mg film-coated tablets are pale yellow oval tablets with “NVR” on one side and “L1” on the other side.
Sacubitril/valsartan 200 mg film-coated tablets are light pink oval tablets with “NVR” on one side and “L11” on the other side.

The tablets are supplied in HDPE bottles in pack of 70 tablets.

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Date of leaflet preparation: July 2015

Additional information:

Before treatment starts, you will have the scheme explained carefully to you by your physician and you will be provided with two documents:

Information for the patient (this document)

Patient Alert Card

You will be given a Patient Alert Card after giving informed consent. This is a credit-card sized card that you must carry at all times. It contains important information on the main symptoms of the most important side effect and highlights the importance of stopping your medicine and seeking immediate medicial attension should they occur.

The card also alerts any other healthcare professional that may treat you that you are receiving sacubitril/valsartan through an early access scheme. It has the details of your own physician, their out of hours contact details and the Company's contact details.

You will need to attend clinic one month after starting sacubitril/valsartan and at 3 month intervals thereafter until you stop taking it.

Contact information:

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