



27th January 2020

▼ Picato (ingenol mebutate) – Suspension of the marketing authorisation due to risk of skin malignancy

Dear Healthcare Professional,

LEO Pharma in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the MHRA would like to inform you of the following while a European review of the benefits and risks of ingenol mebutate is carried out:

Summary

- **The marketing authorisation of Picato (ingenol mebutate) is suspended as a precautionary measure due to growing concerns on the possible risk of skin malignancy, while EMA continues to investigate.**
- **Final results from a study comparing Picato to another medicine for actinic keratosis (Imiquimod) indicate a higher occurrence of skin cancer in the treatment area with Picato.**
- **Healthcare professionals should stop prescribing Picato and consider other treatment options as appropriate.**
- **Healthcare professionals should advise patients to be vigilant for any skin lesions developing and to seek medical advice promptly should any occur.**
- **Class 2 Pharmacy/Wholesale Level Recall: LEO Pharma is recalling all unexpired stock of the products from pharmacies and wholesalers. The recall is a precautionary measure while investigations are ongoing.**

Background on the safety concern

Picato (ingenol mebutate) is used for the treatment of actinic keratosis in adults when the outer layer of the skin affected is not thickened or raised. It is available as 150 micrograms/gram gel (for use on the face and scalp) and 500 micrograms/gram gel (for use on the trunk and extremities).

The potential for Picato to induce skin malignancy was already considered at the time of the initial marketing authorisation. Several studies since found a higher incidence in skin tumours in the treatment area in patients having used ingenol mebutate and a related ester, namely:

- higher incidence of squamous cell carcinoma with ingenol mebutate compared with imiquimod in the final results of a 3-year safety study in 484 patients (3.3% versus 0.4% of patients).

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- higher incidence of benign tumours compared with vehicle in pooled 8-week trials with ingenol mebutate in 1262 patients (1.0% versus 0.1% of patients).
- higher incidence of tumours, including basal cell carcinoma, Bowen's disease and squamous cell carcinoma was also seen compared with vehicle in four clinical trials with ingenol disoxate (an ester related to ingenol mebutate whose development has been stopped) in 1234 patients (7.7% versus 2.9% of patients).

Post-marketing reports of skin tumours in Picato-treated patients have also been received. Time to onset ranged from weeks to months.

While a number of uncertainties remain and EMA is still reviewing the available data, taking into account the growing concerns on the possible risk of skin malignancy, EMA has recommended as a precaution an EU-wide suspension of Picato.

Call for reporting

▼ Picato is subject to additional monitoring to allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions.

It is easiest and quickest to report ADRs online via the Yellow Cards website – www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App 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 the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) free phone line: 0800-731-6789
- or by downloading and printing a form

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset, treatment dates, and product brand name.

Company contact point

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Yours faithfully,

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