

25/03/2021

**Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)**

**TECENTRIQ® ▼ (atezolizumab): Risk of Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions (SCARs)**

Dear Healthcare professional,

Hoffmann-La Roche in agreement with European Medicines Agency and The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would like to inform you of the following:

***Summary***

- Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), including cases of Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), have been reported in patients treated with Tecentriq (atezolizumab).
- Patients should be monitored for suspected severe skin reactions and other causes should be excluded. In case a SCAR is suspected, Tecentriq should be withheld and patients should be referred to a specialist in SCARs for diagnosis and treatment.
- In case SJS or TEN is confirmed, and for any grade 4 rash/SCAR, treatment with Tecentriq should be permanently discontinued.
- Caution is recommended when considering the use of Tecentriq in patients with previous history of life-threatening SCAR with other immune-stimulatory cancer medicines.

***Background on the safety concern***

SCARs are a heterogeneous group of immunologically mediated drug eruptions. Although rare, these events are potentially fatal, and are mainly constituted by acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).

SCARs were previously known to be potentially associated with the use of atezolizumab, and have been monitored continuously. Based upon the totality of evidence in a recent analysis, SCARs are now considered to be an identified risk for atezolizumab.

A cumulative analysis of the company safety database across the Tecentriq program identified 99 cases, of which 36 cases of SCARs were confirmed by histopathology or specialist diagnosis, in patients who have received Tecentriq. Approximately 23,654 clinical trial patients and 106,316 patients in post-marketing settings have been exposed to the product as of 17 May 2020. The incidence rates of SCAR, regardless of severity, from pooled atezolizumab monotherapy (N=3178) and combination therapy (N=4371) in company-sponsored clinical studies was 0.7% and 0.6% respectively. This included one fatal case of TEN in a 77-year old female patient who received atezolizumab monotherapy.

It is recommended that:

- For suspected SCARs the patients should be referred to a dermatologist for further diagnosis and management
- Tecentriq should be withheld in patients with suspected SJS or TEN
- Tecentriq should be permanently withdrawn for any grade confirmed SJS or TEN, and for any grade 4 rash/SCAR
- Caution should be used when considering the use of atezolizumab in a patient who has previously experienced a severe or life-threatening skin adverse reaction on prior treatment with other immune-stimulatory anticancer agents.

An update to the Product Information to include a Warning and Precaution for SCARs, guidelines for discontinuation and further description of the risk will be implemented shortly.

### **Call for reporting**

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

Health care professionals should report any adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of Tecentriq (atezolizumab) to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme.

Report via the website <https://www.gov.uk/yellowcard>, the free Yellow Card app available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, and some clinical IT systems (EMIS, SystmOne, Vision, MiDatabank) for healthcare professionals. Suspected side effect can also be reported by calling 0800 731 6789 for free.

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

Adverse events should also be reported to Roche Products Ltd. Please contact Roche Drug Safety Centre by emailing [welwyn.uk\\_dsc@roche.com](mailto:welwyn.uk_dsc@roche.com) or calling +44 (0)1707 367554.

As TECENTRIQ ▼ (atezolizumab) is a biological medicine, healthcare professionals should report adverse reactions by brand name and batch number. The non-identical nature of

biological medicines and vaccines means it is very important that safety surveillance is carried out on a brand/product-specific basis. When reporting a suspected ADR to a biological medicine (such as blood products, antibodies and advanced therapies [such as gene and tissue therapy]) or vaccine, please ensure that you provide the brand name (or product licence number and manufacturer), and the specific batch-number.

Additionally, when providing patients with details of the vaccine or biological medicine administered, it is good practice to give them details of the brand and batch number. This will allow patients and carers to more accurately report suspected ADRs to the Yellow Card Scheme.

***Company contact point***

Should you have any questions regarding the use of TECENTRIQ® (atezolizumab), please feel free to contact us at:

Roche Medical Information by phone on +44(0)800 328 1629 or via e-mail  
medinfo.uk@roche.com

Yours sincerely,

Roche Products Limited



Dr Marius Scholtz

Medical Cluster Lead/Chief Medical Officer