August 14th,2024

DIRECT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Rabipur (Rabies vaccine, inactivated),
powder and solvent for solution for injection in pre-filled syringe:

Reports of rubber particles after reconstitution - recommendations to minimise the risk of particles

Dear Healthcare professional,

Bavarian Nordic in agreement with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Bavarian Nordic has recently received an unexpected number of product quality complaints about visual particles in the vaccine solution, following reconstitution.**
- **An analysis has revealed that these particles consisted of rubber, which was transferred from the rubber stopper of the vaccine vials during the reconstitution process (so called "coring").**
- **Reconstituted Rabipur vaccine should be carefully visually inspected and must not be administered in case of visible particles.**
- **This letter contains recommendations on how to perform the reconstitution process, with the aim of minimising the risk of particles caused by "coring".**

Background on the safety concern

Rabipur is delivered in a package containing a vial of freeze-dried vaccine with a stopper (chlorobutyl or bromobutyl rubber), a pre-filled syringe of sterile diluent for reconstitution

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(1 mL), one long green needle for reconstitution (21 gauge, 40 mm) and one small orange needle for injection (25 gauge, 25 mm).

During the reconstitution process, the diluent is transferred into the vaccine vial using the reconstitution needle.

With the current combination of the reconstitution needles provided in Rabipur packs, and the composition of the rubber stopper, rubber particles (originating from the stopper) in the final vaccine solution was observed due to an increased number of "coring" events.

Reconstituted vaccine has to be carefully visually inspected before administration and has to be discarded in case of visible particles.

Bavarian Nordic recommends following the steps below in order to minimise the risk of rubber particles being formed from "coring":

- Discard the long green needle for reconstitution (21 gauge, 40 mm).
- Use the small orange administration needle (25 gauge, 25 mm) for reconstitution of the vaccine.
    - As the length of the orange 25 gauge needle will not reach to the bottom of the vial, please invert the vial and pull back the needle close to the stopper, to be able to withdraw the full amount of vaccine solution from the vial.
- After the vaccine solution is withdrawn into the syringe, discard the orange 25 gauge needle and use another administration needle to administer the vaccine.

Bavarian Nordic would like to emphasise that the safety and quality of the Rabipur product are not affected by these recommendations, and that the product can be safely administered after visual inspection has determined it being free from visible particles.

Bavarian Nordic is taking steps to further optimise Rabipur's current method of administration. As such these steps require testing and regulatory clearance, therefore we are asking you to adhere to the above instructions until further notice.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Please continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the MHRA through the Yellow Card scheme.

Please report:

- all suspected ADRs associated with new drugs and vaccines identified by the black triangle ▼
- all suspected ADRs that are serious or result in harm. Serious reactions are those that are fatal, life-threatening, disabling or incapacitating, those that cause a

congenital abnormality or result in hospitalisation, and those that are considered medically significant for any other reason

You can report via:

- the Yellow Card website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard
- the free Yellow Card app available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
- some clinical IT systems (EMIS/SystmOne/Vision/MiDatabank) for healthcare professionals

Alternatively, you can report a suspected side effect to the Yellow Card scheme by calling 0800 731 6789 for free, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

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

Company contact point

In case of quality complaints, please reach out to quality.complaints@bavarian-nordic.com. For medical information questions, please contact medical.information_EU@bavarian-nordic.com.

For any other questions, please contact customerservice@bavarian-nordic.com.

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