

17 Apr 2016

**Direct Healthcare Professional Communication on the association of BCR-ABL targeting TKIs including (Dasatinib) with the risk of hepatitis B virus reactivation**

Dear Healthcare Professional,

MAH in agreement with the Egyptian Pharmaceutical Egyptian Center (EPVC) would like to inform you about important new safety information for dasatinib.

**Summary:**

**BCR-ABL TKIs have been associated with hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation, including individual case reports for Dasatinib. In some instances, HBV reactivation occurring in conjunction with other BCR-ABL TKIs resulted in acute hepatic failure or fulminant hepatitis leading to liver transplantation or a fatal outcome.**

**Recommendations:**

- Screening for HBV should be considered in accordance with published guidelines before starting therapy with Dasatinib. Consultation with a physician with expertise in the treatment of HBV is recommended for patients who test positive for HBV serology.
- Patients who are carriers of HBV and require treatment with BCR-ABL TKIs should be closely monitored for clinical and laboratory signs of active HBV infection throughout therapy and for several months following termination of therapy. In patients who develop reactivation of HBV while receiving Dasatinib, prompt consultation with a physician with expertise in the treatment of HBV is recommended.

**Background on the safety concern and recommendations**

A recent cumulative review of data from clinical trials and post-marketing experience has shown that HBV reactivation can occur in chronic HBV carriers, after they received BCR-ABL TKIs. Some of these cases included acute hepatic failure or fulminant hepatitis leading to liver transplantation or fatal outcome. These case reports indicate that HBV reactivation may occur at any time during TKI treatment. Some of these patients had a documented history of HBV, for other cases, the serologic status at baseline was not known.

HBV reactivation is considered a class-effect of BCR-ABL TKIs, although the mechanism and the frequency of HBV reactivation during exposure is not known at this time.

**Further information on recommendations to healthcare professionals**



Dasatinib is an oral tyrosine kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of adult patients with.:

- newly diagnosed Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+) chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML)in the chronic phase.
- chronic, accelerated or myeloid or lymphoid blast Ph+ CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including imatinib.
- Ph+ acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy.