

SFDA SAFETY SIGNAL

“A signal is defined by the SFDA as reported information on a possible causal relationship between an adverse event and a drug, the relationship being unknown or incompletely documented previously. Usually more than a single report is required to generate a signal, depending upon the seriousness of the event and the quality of the information. A signal is a hypothesis together with data and arguments and it is important to note that a signal is not only uncertain but also preliminary in nature”

28-10-2024

Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) – Safety Signal of Apalutamide and the Risk of Lichenoid keratosis

*The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) recommends all health care professionals to be aware of the safety signal of **Lichenoid keratosis** associated with the use of **Apalutamide**. The signal has been originated as a result of routine pharmacovigilance monitoring activities.*

Introduction

Apalutamide is an androgen receptor inhibitor. It is indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer and non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. ^[1] Lichenoid keratosis (LK), also known as lichen planus-like keratosis, is a benign skin lesion that commonly occurs as a single small gray-brown plaque or papule and is most commonly located on the chest and upper extremities. A variety of treatments can be used to remove such lesions, including cryosurgery, electrosurgery, and curettage, but the lesions can recur after removal. ^[2] The aim of this review is to evaluate the risk of Lichenoid keratosis associated with the use of Apalutamide and to suggest regulatory recommendations if required.

Methodology

Signal Detection team at SFDA performed a signal review using National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC) database, and World Health Organization (WHO) database, VigiBase, with literature screening to retrieve all related information to assess the causality between Lichenoid keratosis and Apalutamide use. The search conducted on August 2024.

Results

Case Review: Signal detection team at SFDA have searched Saudi national database and WHO database to find individual case safety reports (ICSRs). The WHO database resulted in 10 global case-reports while zero local cases found. The authors used signal detection tool (Vigilyze) to retrieve all reported global cases. ^[3] Authors also applied WHO-UMC causality assessment criteria on the extracted ICSR. ^[4] Among them, 1 case assessed as certain, 6 cases were probably or possibly linked to Apalutamide, and 2 cases assessed as not assessable due to lack of valuable information, while the remaining 1 case assessed as unlikely.

Datamining: The disproportionality of the observed and the expected reporting rate for drug/adverse drug reaction pair is estimated using information component (IC), a tool developed by WHO-UMC to measure the reporting ratio. Positive IC reflects higher statistical association while negative values indicates less statistical association. The IC result is (3.3) for this drug/ADR combination which reflects strong positive statistical association. ^[4]

Conclusion

The weighted cumulative evidence identified from assessed cases and disproportionality analysis are suggestive for causal association between Apalutamide and Lichenoid keratosis. Health care professionals and health regulators must be aware of the potential risk in drug recipients.

Report Adverse Drug Events (ADRs) to the SFDA

The SFDA urges both healthcare professionals and patients to continue reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs) resulted from using any medications to the SFDA either online, by regular mail or by fax, using the following contact information:

National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC)
Saudi Food and Drug Authority-Drug sector
4904 northern ring branch rd
Hittin District
Riyadh 13513 – 7148
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Toll free number: 19999
Email: NPC.Drug@sfd.gov.sa

References:

- 1- DailyMed - erleada- apalutamide tablet, film coated (no date) U.S. National Library of Medicine. Available at: <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=d1cda4f7-cb33-46ea-b9ac-431f6452b1a5> [Accessed: 04/08/2024].
- 2- BinJadeed, H. et al. (2020) ‘Lichenoid keratosis successfully treated with topical imiquimod’, JAAD Case Reports, 6(12), pp. 1353–1355. doi:10.1016/j.jdc.2020.10.002. [Accessed: 05/08/2024].
- 3- Vigilyze.who-umc.org. 2024. [online] Available at: <https://vigilyze.who-umc.org/> [Accessed: 05/08/2024].
- 4- World Health Organization WHO (2013). WHO-UMC system for standardised case causality assessment. Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/WHO-causality-assessment> [Accessed: 05/08/2024].