May 29th, 2013

Dear Health Care Professional,

Sandimmun® (ciclosporin) concentrate for infusion
Omission of dilution instructions from the prescribing information

Novartis recently became aware of the following:

In April 2012, Novartis submitted an update of the prescribing information for approval to the Israeli Ministry of Health (MoH) following a change in the company Core Data Sheet (CDS). In the CDS and consequently in the National Prescribing Information, the dilution instructions section were inadvertently omitted. The leaflet without this section was implemented in the Sandimmun packages in October 2012.

Therefore an update to the prescribing information was submitted to the MoH on 26 May 2013 and the following text was approved on 27 May 2013:

"***The concentrate should be diluted 1:20 to 1:100 with normal saline or 5% glucose, and given as a slow i.v. infusion over approximately 2 to 6 hours. Once an ampoule is opened, the content should be diluted immediately. Diluted infusion solutions must be discarded after 24 hours***".

The proper dilution of Sandimmun concentrate for infusion is extremely important prior to i.v. administration due to the risk of anaphylactoid hypersensitivity reactions associated to the polyoxyethylated castor oil (Cremophor® EL) used as excipient in this formulation (reviewed in reference 1).

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact us.

Sincerely,
Mgr. Naama Or
Drug Regulatory Affairs Head

Reference

(1) Liau-Chu M, Theis JG, Koren G. Mechanism of anaphylactoid reactions: improper preparation of high-dose intravenous cyclosporine leads to bolus infusion of Cremophor EL and cyclosporine. Ann Pharmacother. 1997;31: 1287-91.

Novartis Pharma Services AG
Israeli Branch
36 Shacham St., Ramat Siv, Petach-Tikva
P.O.B 7759, Petach Tikva 49250, Israel
Tel: 972-3-9201111 Fax: 972-3-9229230

נוברטיס פארמה סרוויסס איי ג'י
סניף ישראל
רח' שחם 36 רמת סיב פתח-תקוה
ת.ד. 7759 פתח-תקוה 49250
טלפון: 03- 9201111 פקס: 03-9229230