EGYPTIAN DRUG AUTHORITY

هيئة الدواء المصرية

The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance center

مركز اليقظة الصيدلية المصري

IN THIS ISSUE

Prepared by:

Reem Hossam

Khaled El Refaei

Ola Fahmy

Designed by:

Reem Tarek

Chief editor

Aalaa Afdal

Head of Egyptian Pharmacovigilance Center

Under supervision of

Dr. Sherin Abdel Gawad

Head of the C.A for Pharmaceutical Care

EPVC Mission

Pharmaceutical Vigilance administration is the way through which the processes for authorizing, regulating, monitoring and evaluating the safety of any pharmaceutical product or medical device take place, in addition to disseminating any safety information for public health programs, healthcare professionals, and the Egyptian citizen.

The Pharmaceutical vigilance administration is an integral part of the Central Administration of Pharmaceutical Care that works on the enhancement of the pharmaceutical services to guarantee safe and effective use of medications in Egypt, under the patronage of the Egyptian Drug Authority.

Newsletter

February 2022

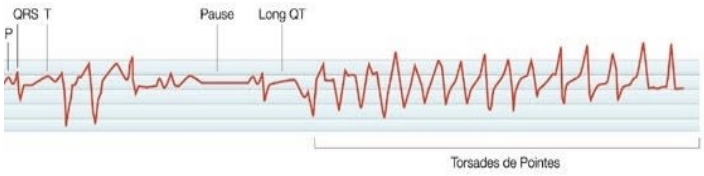
Volume 13 **Issue 2**

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC): Donepezil-QTc interval extension and Torsade de Pointes

EPVC in agreement with market authorization holders (MAH) of products containing Donepezil would like to inform you of the following:

Summary:

* Cases of QTc interval prolongation and torsade de pointes have been reported in the post-marketing setting with the use of donepezil.
* Caution is advised:
  - ⇒ in patients with existing or familial QTc interval prolongation
  - ⇒ in patients concomitantly treated with medicinal products that affect the QTc interval.
  - ⇒ in patients with relevant pre-existing heart disease (e.g., uncompensated heart failure, recent heart attack, bradyarrhythmia) or electrolyte disorders (hypokalemia, hypomagnesaemia).
* ECG monitoring should be considered in patients at risk.
* Adverse effects newly included in the product information: Polymorphic ventricular tachycardia including torsade de pointes, prolonged QTc interval in the electrocardiogram.



Background on the safety concerns

Donepezil is a selective reversible acetylcholinesterase inhibitor which is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

The risk of cholinergic effects on heart rate is already known. The product information includes a warning that cholinesterase inhibitors may have vagotonic effects on the heart rate (e.g., bradycardia) and that the potential for this effect in patients with sick sinus syndrome or other supraventricular excitation conditions, such as: B. sinoatrial or atrioventricular block, may be particularly important.

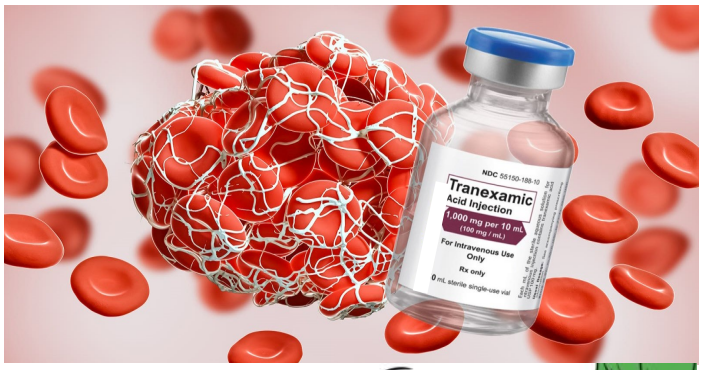
The latest changes to the product information for donepezil are the result of an evaluation of post-marketing data and the scientific literature. Reports of QTc interval extensions and torsade de pointes associated with donepezil use have been identified and assessed by the EMA. It was found that a causal relationship between donepezil and QTc interval extensions and Torsade de Pointes is at least a reasonable possibility. Since the assessment was primarily based on spontaneous reports of adverse events after marketing, the frequency is reported as

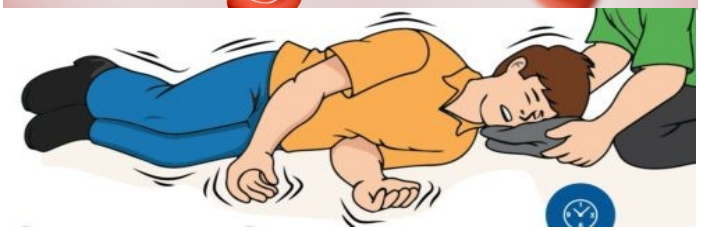
References:

Bfarm *(Click here)*

Case Report from Cairo: Tranexamic acid - Case of Convulsions

The regional center in Cairo received a case concerning a 61 years old male patient who was admitted to the hospital due to pneumothorax and broken ribs resulting from an accident. The patient was administered Tranexamic acid via intravenous route to stop hemorrhage. After that, the patient experienced convulsions, so the patient was given Phenytoin to treat convulsions and continued his therapy with Tranexamic acid without occurrence of convulsions.





Background:

Tranexamic acid is indicated in adults and children from one year in prevention and treatment of hemorrhages due to general or local fibrinolysis. Specific indications include:

* Haemorrhage caused by general or local fibrinolysis such as:
  - ⇒ Menorrhagia and metrorrhagia,
  - ⇒ Gastrointestinal bleeding,
  - ⇒ Haemorrhagic urinary disorders, further to prostate surgery or surgical procedures affecting the urinary tract,
* Ear Nose Throat surgery (adenoidectomy, tonsillectomy, dental extractions),
* Gynaecological surgery or disorders of obstetric origin,
* Thoracic and abdominal surgery and other major surgical intervention such as cardiovascular surgery,
* Management of haemorrhage due to the administration of a fibrinolytic agent.[1]

Labeled information:

According to Tranexamic acid Summary of product Characteristics (SmPC) [1] it was stated Under section (4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use) that:

Convulsions: Cases of convulsions have been reported in association with tranexamic acid treatment. In coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, most of these cases were reported following intravenous (IV) injection of tranexamic acid in high doses. With the use of the recommended lower doses of tranexamic acid, the incidence of postoperative seizures was the same as that in untreated patients.

Seizures: Inadvertent injection into neuraxial system may result in seizures [2]

Recommendations for Healthcare Professionals

1. When evaluating an individual's risk of developing Convulsion some risk factors should be considered such as patients with history of convulsions. [1]
2. Intrathecal and intraventricular injection and intracerebral application are not recommended due to risk of cerebral oedema and convulsions. [1]
3. Intravenous injections or infusions should be given very slowly (maximum 1 mL per minute).
4. Tranexamic acid should not be administered by the intramuscular route. [1]
5. Misuse of Tranexamic acid could cause convulsions [1]
6. Overdose of Tranexamic acid could cause convulsions[3] . It has been shown that convulsions tend to occur at higher frequency with increasing dose[4].
7. Tranexamic acid may cause seizures, including focal and generalized seizures. The most common setting for tranexamic acid-induced seizures has been during cardiovascular surgery (a setting in which Tranexamic Acid in Sodium Chloride Injection is not FDA approved and which uses doses of up to ten-fold higher than the recommended human dose and in patients inadvertently given tranexamic acid into the neuraxial system).

   Tranexamic Acid in Sodium Chloride Injection is not approved and not recommended for neuraxial administration. Consider dose reduction during surgery and dose adjustments for patients with clinical conditions such as renal dysfunction. Closely monitor the patient during surgery. Consider EEG monitoring for patients with history of seizures or who experience myoclonic movements, twitching, or show evidence of focal seizures. Discontinue Tranexamic Acid in Sodium Chloride Injection if seizures occur[5].

Disclaimer: The method of case handling depends on the evaluation of the treating physician according to individual patient's need.

References:

1. *EMC (Click here)*
2. *FDA (Click here)*
3. *Dailymed (Click here)*
4. *EMA (Click here)*
5. *FDA (Click here)*

Acknowledgement of Agami Medical District in Alexandria for there Efforts in Raising Awareness of Pharmaceutical Vigilance

The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center is grateful to the Agami Medical District in Alexandria for its contributions to raise awareness of pharmaceutical vigilance and the importance of adverse effects reporting of various medicines and pharmaceutical products among patients and members of the medical team in all categories in the medical district.

Raising such awareness allows for better monitoring of efficacy and safety of medicines and pharmaceutical products and ensures delivery of safer medicine for the sake of patient safety.

One report counts

A call for reporting

What is Pharmacovigilance

Pharmacovigilance (PV) is defined as the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug- related problem.

What is the Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center?

With the increasing demand for patient's safety which is becoming more stringent, . The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center was established to be responsible for the safety monitoring of the pharmaceutical products throughout its lifecycle and it is the regulatory authority regarding Pharmacovigilance and its applications .

EPVC monitors the safety of all types of pharmaceutical products, including human medicines, biological products, supplements, cosmetics, veterinary medicines, medical devices, Biocides and pesticides

Please remember that you can report safety information of medicines to EPVC using the following communication information:

Communication information

The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)
Pharmaceutical Care Administration
The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center (EPVC)

The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance center
مركـــز اليـــقظة الصـــيدلية المـــصري

Address: 21 Abd El Aziz AlSoud Street. El-Manial, Cairo, Egypt, PO Box: 11451
Hotline: 15301
Fax: +202 – 23610497
Email: pv@edaegypt.gov.eg,
pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg
Reporting link: www.edaegypt.gov.eg
https://sites.google.com/view/epvc-reporting/healthcare-professional-public-adverse-drug-event-reporting/reporting-other-adverse-drug-event-cases

هيئة الدواء المصرية (الرعاية الصيدلية)