



Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Feb 2022

Neural tube defects reported in infants born to women exposed to dolutegravir at the time of conception.

Dear Healthcare Professional,

EVA PHARMA in agreement with The General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance of the Central Administration for Pharmaceutical Care at The Egyptian Drug Authority would like to inform you of the following:

Summary:

In an ongoing birth outcome surveillance study, conducted in Botswana, the Tsepamo study, 4 cases of neural tube defects (NTD) have been reported in 426 infants born to women who took dolutegravir as part of combined antiretroviral therapy at the time of conception. This represents an incidence of about 0.9% compared with an expected background rate of about 0.1% in infants born to women taking other antiretroviral medicines at the time of conception.

While this safety signal is being evaluated, the following measures are recommended:

- In women of child bearing potential (WOCBP) pregnancy testing should be performed and pregnancy should be excluded before initiation of treatment.
 - WOCBP who are taking dolutegravir should use effective contraception throughout treatment.
 - In WOCBP who are actively seeking to become pregnant, it is recommended to avoid dolutegravir.
 - In case a woman becomes pregnant while taking dolutegravir and the pregnancy is confirmed in the first trimester, it is recommended to switch to an alternative treatment unless there is no suitable alternative
- EVAPHARMA's Dolutegravir are Tegrivirin

- Background on the safety concern

The issue has been identified from a preliminary unscheduled analysis of the ongoing Tsepamo study in Botswana.

Further data from this study will be captured during the ongoing surveillance. This information will help to further inform about the safety of dolutegravir during pregnancy.

Although there is limited experience with the use of dolutegravir in pregnancy, the currently available data from other sources including Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry, clinical trials and post-marketing use has not indicated a similar safety issue. There is only one other report of NTD reported spontaneously from Namibia in which dolutegravir was used a few months prior to conception and during pregnancy.





There are currently no congenital abnormality signals (including NTD) associated with the use of dolutegravir during pregnancy from other data sources. Dolutegravir was tested in a complete package of reproductive toxicology studies, including embryofetal development studies, and no relevant findings were identified.

Neural tube defects occur when the neural tube fails to completely form (between 0 and 28 days after conception), and the spinal cord, brain and related structures do not form properly.

References

Innovator DHPC:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b2cc3d1e5274a55cdf21af8/Dolutegravir-DHPC.pdf>

EMA: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/new-study-suggests-risk-birth-defects-babies-born-women-hiv-medicine-dolutegravir>

Call for reporting

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Egyptian reporting system:

Name: General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance

Email: pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg

Online reporting: <https://primaryreporting.who-umc.org/EG>

QR Code:



Hotline: 15301

