This English version is intended to be a reference material for the convenience of users. In the event of inconsistency between the Japanese original and this English translation, the former shall prevail.

Summary of Investigation Results

Aciclovir (oral and injectable dosage forms)

Valaciclovir hydrochloride

March 31, 2020

Non-proprietary name

a. Aciclovir (oral and injectable dosage forms)

b. Valaciclovir hydrochloride

Branded name (Marketing authorization holder)

a. Zovirax Tablets 200, 400, Zovirax Granules 40%, Zovirax for I.V. infusion 250 (GlaxoSmithKline K.K.) and the others

b. Valtrex Tablets 500, Valtrex Granules 50% (GlaxoSmithKline K.K.) and the others

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

3-3-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013 Japan
E-mail: safety.info@pmda.go.jp

Indications

a. Zovirax Tablets 200, 400

Adult patients

Treatment of herpes simplex, risk reduction of herpes simplex virus infection at the time of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, treatment of herpes zoster

Pediatric patients

Treatment of herpes simplex, risk reduction of herpes simplex virus infection at the time of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, treatment of herpes zoster, risk reduction of recurrent genital herpes

a. Zovirax Granules 40%

Adult patients

Treatment of herpes simplex, risk reduction of herpes simplex virus infection at the time of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, treatment of herpes zoster

Pediatric patients

Treatment of herpes simplex, risk reduction of herpes simplex virus infection at the time of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, treatment of herpes zoster and varicella, risk reduction of recurrent genital herpes

a. Zovirax I.V. infusion 250

Treatment of the following infections caused by herpes simplex virus or varicella zoster virus

Herpes simplex, varicella, herpes zoster in immunocompromised patients (patients with malignant tumour or autoimmune disease for example), encephalitis, meningitis

Treatment of neonatal herpes simplex virus infection

b. Treatment of herpes simplex, risk reduction of herpes simplex virus infection at the time of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, treatment of herpes zoster and varicella, risk reduction of recurrent genital herpes

3-3-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013 Japan
E-mail: safety.info@pmda.go.jp

This English version is intended to be a reference material for the convenience of users. In the event of inconsistency between the Japanese original and this English translation, the former shall prevail.

Summary of revisions

With the addition of “tubulointerstitial nephritis,” the “Acute renal failure”/”Acute kidney injury” in the Clinically Significant Adverse Reactions section should be revised to “Acute renal failure/Acute kidney injury, tubulointerstitial nephritis”.

Investigation results and background of the revision

Cases of tubulointerstitial nephritis have been reported in patients treated with valaciclovir hydrochloride in Japan. Valaciclovir hydrochloride is a prodrug of aciclovir. MHLW/PMDA in consultation with expert advisors concluded that revision of the package insert was necessary.

Number of cases and patient mortalities reported in Japan during the previous 3 fiscal years

a. No cases involving tubulointerstitial nephritis have been reported to date.
b. A total of 6 cases involving tubulointerstitial nephritis have been reported to date (including 3 cases for which a causal relationship between the drug and events could not be ruled out). No patient mortalities have been reported to date.

The expert advisors present at the Expert Discussion regarding the current investigation were nominated based on their conflict of interest declarations concerning the relevant products, pursuant to the “Rules for Convening Expert Discussions, etc., by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency” (PMDA Administrative Rule No. 20-8, dated December 25, 2008).

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

3-3-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013 Japan
E-mail: safety.info@pmda.go.jp