Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on domperidone maleate

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Subject: Domperidone maleate associated with serious ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death

The manufacturers of domperidone in collaboration with Health Canada would like to inform you of important additional safety information regarding a small increased risk of serious ventricular arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death in association with domperidone.

Domperidone is indicated in adults for the symptomatic management of upper gastrointestinal motility disorders associated with chronic and subacute gastritis and diabetic gastroparesis. Domperidone is also indicated to prevent gastrointestinal symptoms associated with the use of dopamine agonist antiparkinsonian agents.

A review of epidemiological studies and recent post-market safety data has demonstrated that domperidone exposure was associated with an increased risk of serious ventricular arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death. Based on this new evidence, the labelling of domperidone is being further strengthened to better reflect and address these cardiac risks.

- Domperidone may be associated with a small increased risk of serious ventricular arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death. A higher risk was observed in patients:
  - older than 60 years of age;
  - using daily doses greater than 30 mg;
  - having predisposing factors for QT prolongation including concomitant use of QT-prolonging drugs or CYP 3A4 inhibitors.

- Domperidone is now contraindicated in patients:
  - with prolongation of cardiac conduction intervals, particularly QT;
  - with significant electrolyte disturbances;
  - with cardiac disease (such as congestive heart failure);
  - with moderate or severe liver impairment;
  - receiving QT-prolonging drugs and potent CYP3A4 inhibitors.

- Domperidone should be used at the lowest effective dose to a maximum recommended daily dose of 30 mg and for the shortest possible duration.

Domperidone has been marketed in Canada for 30 years. Over this period, Health Canada received 19 Canadian reports of serious cardiac events associated with domperidone.

This safety information applies to all patients using domperidone whatever the condition being treated.

Healthcare professionals should consider doing a cardiac assessment in patients at higher risk for QT interval prolongation and/or cardiac arrhythmia including an electrocardiogram (ECG) prior to initiation of domperidone and during treatment.

Patients should be advised to stop taking domperidone and seek immediate medical attention if they experience signs or symptoms of an abnormal heart rate or rhythm while taking domperidone.

In order to inform on this safety issue, the manufacturers of all domperidone products are modifying the Canadian Product Monographs (CPMs) of the following drugs:

Apo-domperidone	Domperidone-10
DOM-DOMPERIDONE	RAN-domperidone
Jamp-domperidone	Domperidone
Mar-domperidone	Ratio-domperidone
Mylan-domperidone	Teva-domperidone
PMS-DOMPERIDONE	

Managing marketed health product-related adverse reactions depends on health care professionals and consumers reporting them. Reporting rates determined on the basis of spontaneously reported post-marketing adverse reactions are generally presumed to underestimate the risks associated with health product treatments. Any case of serious ventricular arrhythmias or sudden cardiac death, or other serious or unexpected adverse reactions in patients receiving domperidone should be reported to the respective manufacturer in the attached list or Health Canada.

Apotex Incorporated Telephone: 1-800-667-4708 Telefax: 1-416-401-3819
Dominion Pharmacal Telephone: 1-888-550-6060 Telefax: 1-514-340-0164
Jamp Pharma Corporation Telephone: 1-866-399-9091 Telefax: 1-450-449-4326
Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc. Telephone: (613) 228-2600 ext. 229; Fax: (613) 224-0444
Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC Telephone: 1-800-575-1379 Telefax: 1-304-285-6409
Pharmascience Inc. Telephone: 1-888-550-6060 Telefax : 1-514-340-0164
Pro Doc Limitée Telephone: 1 800 361-8559 Telefax: 1 450 668-3585 or 1 888 977-6362
Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc. Telephone: 1-866-840-1340 Telefax: 1-905-602 4216
Sanis Health Inc. Telephone: 1-866-236-4076 Telefax: 1-905-689-1465
Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC Telephone: 514-832-1286 Telefax: 514-832-1161
Teva Canada Limited and ratiopharm Inc.
1-800-268-4127 ext 1255005 (English), 1-877-777-9117 (French), Telefax: 1-416-335-4472

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345; or
- Visiting MedEffect Canada's Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/repodeclaration/index-eng.php) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax

For other health product inquiries related to this communication, contact Health Canada at:
Marketed Health Products Directorate
E-mail: mhpd_dpsc@hc-sc.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-954-6522
Fax: 613-952-7738

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by:

Colin D'Cunha
MBBS,MHSc,FRCPC
Director, Global Medical Affairs,
Apotex Inc.

Len Neirinck, Ph.D.
Vice-President and Chief Scientific Officer,
Scientific Affairs,
Pharmascience Inc. and Dominion Pharmacal Inc.

Nathalie Toutant
Vice-president, Scientific Affairs
Jamp Pharma Corporation

Sudheer Paladugu, M.Pharm
Vice President - Technical
Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc.,

Joanne Manley
Director Regulatory Affairs
Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC

Jovette Deschênes
Director,
QC/QA, Regulatory Affairs
Pro Doc Limitée

Sukhvir Hundal
Director Regulatory Affairs
Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

Paul Bonnici
Director Regulatory Affairs/QA
Sanis Health Inc

Fraidianie Sévigné
Director, Regulatory Affairs and
Quality
Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC

Bruce Valliant
Director, Medical Affairs
Teva Canada Limited