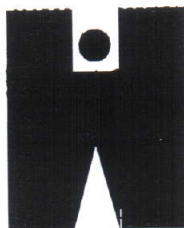


衛生署

藥物註冊組

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BY FAX

26 July 2011

Dr. Raymond LIANG
President
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
(Fax Number: 2505 5577)

Dear Dr. LIANG,

Communication on the safety issue of Avastin® (Bevacizumab)

Roche, in consultation with Singapore Health Sciences Authority is informing healthcare professionals of the higher incidence of new cases of ovarian failure observed in premenopausal women treated with an antineoplastic drug, Avastin® (Bevacizumab).

It has been observed that there was a higher incidence of new cases of ovarian failure in premenopausal women treated with Avastin® + mFOLFOX6 as compared in FOLFOX6 alone, in HSABP C-08, a phase III trial in adjuvant treatment of patients with colon cancer. The causal role of Avastin® cannot be ruled out in these cases. Thus, fertility preservation strategies should be discussed with women of child-bearing potential prior to starting treatment with Avastin® and the package insert of Avastin® will be updated to reflect this latest finding.

For details, please refer to HSA's website:

http://www.hsa.gov.sg/publish/hsaportal/en/health_products_regulation/safety_information/DHCPL.html

In Hong Kong, bevacizumab is registered under the name of Avastin Roche by Roche Hong Kong Ltd. and is a prescription medicine. The above safety issue has been included in the package insert in Hong Kong. Department of Health will keep vigilance against any safety information related to the drug.

Please remind your members to report any adverse events caused by the drugs to the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Unit of Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 8633, fax: 2147-0457 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website: <http://www.psdh.gov.hk> at Pharmaceutical Service under "Reporting an Adverse Drug Reaction".

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Pamela LI)
for Chief Pharmacist