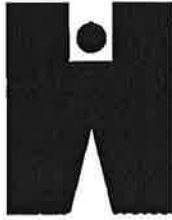


衛生署藥物辦公室
藥物註冊及進出口管制部

香港九龍南昌街 382 號公共衛生檢測中心三樓

電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2319 8458
 詢問處 Enquiries (852) 2319 8458
 傳真號碼 Faxline No. (852) 2803 4982
 本署檔號 OUR REF.: DH DO PRIE/7-30/15



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DRUG OFFICE
 DRUG REGISTRATION AND
 IMPORT/EXPORT CONTROL DIVISION
 3/F., Public Health Laboratory Centre,
 382 Nam Cheong Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

BY FAX

27 June 2012

(來函請註明此檔案號碼)
 (IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS FILE REF.)

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

Dear Dr. LIANG,

FDA: Cefepime and risk of seizure in patients not receiving dosage adjustments for kidney impairment

Please kindly note that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reminded healthcare professionals about the need to adjust the dosage of the antibacterial drug cefepime in patients with renal impairment. There have been cases of a specific type of seizure called nonconvulsive status epilepticus associated with the use of cefepime, primarily in patients with renal impairment who did not receive appropriate dosage adjustments of cefepime.

Cases of nonconvulsive status epilepticus associated with cefepime are documented in the medical literature and have been identified in FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) database. Most cases occurred in patients with renal impairment who did not receive appropriate dosage adjustment; however, some cases occurred in patients receiving dosage adjustment appropriate for their degree of renal impairment. In the majority of cases, the seizures were reversible and resolved after discontinuing cefepime and/or after hemodialysis.

FDA advised that to minimize the risk of seizures, healthcare professionals should adjust the dosage of cefepime in patients with creatinine clearance less than or equal to 60 mL/min. If seizures associated with cefepime therapy occur, consider discontinuing cefepime or making appropriate dosage adjustments in patients with renal impairment.

Please refer to FDA's website for details:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm309822.htm>

In Hong Kong, there are four registered pharmaceutical products containing cefepime and are prescription-only medicines. Cefepime is a broad-spectrum cephalosporin antibiotic. In view of the FDA's recommendation, the matter will be discussed in the meeting of Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Please encourage your members to report any adverse events caused by the drugs to the Pharmacovigilance Unit of Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 2920, fax: 2147 0457 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website at Drug Office under "Reporting an Adverse Drug Reaction": http://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/eps/root/en/healthcare_providers/adr_reporting/index.html. You may wish to visit the Drug Office's website for subscription and browsing of "Drug News" which is a monthly drug safety digest of drug safety news and information issued by Drug Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms. Lily HO)
 for AD(D)

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