

衛生署藥物辦公室
藥物註冊及進出口管制部



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

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 4962
本署檔號 OUR REF.: DH DO PRIE/7-30/15

BY FAX

22 October 2012

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

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

Dear Dr. LIANG,

Health Canada : New Safety Information: Interaction of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) with Methotrexate

Your attention is drawn to that Health Canada is informing healthcare professionals the labelling for methotrexate and Proton Pump Inhibitors is being updated to include information on a potential interaction between these products. Methotrexate is used in the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases and proton pump inhibitors are acid reducers used in the treatment of heartburn or acid indigestion.

The use of these two products at the same time by patients may increase the amount of methotrexate in the blood leading to side effects. The possible risks to health include kidney failure, low red blood cell count, inflammation of the digestive tract, irregular heartbeat, muscle pain, infections, and diarrhea.

While a definite association between PPI use and an increase in methotrexate has not been confirmed, there have been a number of studies suggesting a possible interaction between PPIs and methotrexate. The potential for an increased risk of methotrexate side effects is very likely, which is why Health Canada is informing healthcare professionals of this change in labelling.

Health Canada recommended patients should not stop taking their medication unless they have been advised to do so by their healthcare professionals. Patients using PPIs and methotrexate should consult with their doctors if they have any concerns about their health or these products.

Please refer to Health Canada's website for details:
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2012/2012_157-eng.php

In Hong Kong, there are 145 proton pump inhibitor drugs registered. The ingredients include esomeprazole, lansoprazole, dexlansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole and rabeprazole. All these products are prescription-only medicines except the products containing omeprazole. For products containing methotrexate, there are 16 registered products and all are prescription-only medicines. In view of Health Canada's action, the matter will be discussed in the meeting of the Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Please report any adverse events caused by the drugs to the Pharmacovigilance Unit of Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 2920, fax: 3904 1225 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website at Drug Office under "ADR Reporting": <http://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/adr.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 faithfully,


(Mr. Lot CHAN)
for AD(D)

We are committed to providing quality client-oriented service