EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The rosiglitazone story

Background

Presented by: Xavier Kurz
ENCePP Plenary Meeting, 30 June 2011

Context of EMA funded drug safety studies

- Traditional model of decision-making in pharmacovigilance based on regulators placing obligations on the pharmaceutical industry and then regulators assessing the results of industry studies.
- New model has regulatory decision making based on the assessment of all available data including industry studies, academic studies, studies from public authorities and use of data from ‘real-life’ health outcomes.
- Complementary sources of data and methodological approaches are useful for the benefit–risk evaluation of medicines, incl. individual case safety reports, observational data, clinical trials and meta-analyses.

Background

Rosiglitazone (Avandia) initially authorised in the European Union in July 2000 as second-line diabetes type-2 treatment to be used when other treatments have either failed or are unsuitable for a patient.

Subsequently approved in combination with metformin and with glimepiride.

Contra-indicated in patients with heart failure or a history of heart failure since its first authorisation.

Use further restricted several times by new warnings and contra-indications in patients with heart problem.

Background (2)

Review of rosiglitazone initiated by CHMP on 9 July 2010 on the request of the European Commission following publication of studies questioning the cardiovascular safety of the medicine (Graham et al. JAMA, 2010; Nyssen et al. Arch Int Med, 2010).

Suspension of rosiglitazone-containing products recommended by CHMP on 23/09/2010.

Need for study

- There is limited evidence regarding the impact on clinical practice of restrictions and risk minimisation measures taken by regulatory authorities.

  e.g. Is any switch of patients from rosiglitazone to other anti-diabetic agents associated with the occurrence of acute adverse events, including possible safety issues and modifications of the capability to keep glycaemic parameters under control?

- There is a need to understand the impact of various information on prescription patterns and possible occurrence of acute adverse events
  - Public announcements and concerns expressed by patients
  - Scientific publications
  - Regulatory decisions

Service description for rosiglitazone study

- To provide observational data and report on the drug utilisation patterns of rosiglitazone (e.g., switch to and from alternative therapies, use in patients with specific contraindications, off label use) in at least two EU Member States, and to study associations between changes in drug utilisation patterns to possibly related events (e.g. regulatory decision, information in the media, scientific publication)
- To analyse potential adverse events occurring in patients switched from rosiglitazone to another anti-diabetic or visa-versa, including acute drug reactions, loss of glycaemic control and modifications on objective chemical parameters of disease.
- ENCePP study seal

Successful Tenderer

Henrik Toft Sørensen

Department of Clinical Epidemiology

Aarhus University Hospital

Denmark

Timelines

- Restricted Call for tender: 23 September 2010
- Decision notified to successful tenderer: 12 November 2010
- Contract signature: 15 December 2010
- Interim report: 1 May 2011
  - Response to questions: 1 July 2011
- Final report: 1 October 2011
- Ancillary report: 1 July 2012