PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on INNOHEP® (tinzaparin sodium)

2010-10-19

Subject: Updated safety information on the Use of INNOHEP® (tinzaparin sodium) in Elderly Patients with Renal Impairment

LEO Pharma, in consultation with Health Canada, has informed Canadian healthcare professionals of important updated safety information concerning INNOHEP (tinzaparin sodium) from a clinical study that was stopped prematurely (the IRIS study) due to an increase in the number of deaths observed. The study involved the use of INNOHEP in elderly patients with poor kidney function being treated for new blood clots.

INNOHEP is approved for the prevention and treatment of blood clots and works to prevent blood clots from forming or getting bigger.

- The IRIS study was stopped because an analysis showed more deaths in the patients treated with INNOHEP than those treated with heparin.
- The use of INNOHEP is not recommended in patients over the age of 70 years who have poor kidney function.
- INNOHEP should be used with caution in patients who have poor kidney function and treatment should be closely monitored.

The IRIS study (INNOHEP in Renal Insufficiency Study) was an international study comparing doses of INNOHEP and unfractionated heparin for the treatment of blood clots in elderly patients (over 70 years old) with poor kidney function. During the study, there were more deaths seen in the patients treated with INNOHEP (11.5%) than those treated with heparin (6.3%). Based on these observations the study was stopped. There was no clear explanation for this difference; however these deaths were not due to blood clots or bleeding.

The Canadian Product Monograph (the prescribing information) for INNOHEP has been revised to include this updated information and can be accessed at www.leo-pharma.com/canada or at Health Canada's Drug Product Database at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/databasdon/index-eng.php.

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 serious or unexpected adverse reactions in patients receiving INNOHEP should be reported to LEO Pharma Inc. or Health Canada at the following addresses:

LEO Pharma Inc.
123 Commerce Valley Drive East, Suite 400
Thornhill, Ontario, L3T 7W8
or call toll free Medical Info at: 1-800-263-4218
or fax at: 905-886-6639
or e-mail at: medical-info.ca@leo-pharma.com

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Reporting Form and:
  - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program
    Health Canada
    Postal Locator 0701E
    Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

The Reporting Forms, postage paid labels, and Guidelines can be found on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site in the Adverse Reaction Reporting section (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/index-eng.php). The Reporting Form is also in the Canadian Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties.

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

To change your mailing address or fax number, contact the Market Authorization Holder (Industry).

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of INNOHEP, please contact the Medical Information Department of LEO Pharma Inc. at 1-800-263-4218.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Kenneth Kobayashi, MD, FRCPC
Vice President, Research & Development
LEO Pharma Inc.