European Medicines Agency

London, 22 October 2009
Doc. Ref.: EMEA/CHMP/683039/2009
EMEA/H/A-6(12)/1203

Questions and answers on the referral for Extraneal icodextrin 7.5% solution for peritoneal dialysis

The European Medicines Agency has completed an arbitration procedure for Extraneal 7.5% solution for peritoneal dialysis. The Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has concluded that the change to the marketing authorisation for Extraneal to include a peptidoglycan test can be granted, and that the use of the active substance icodextrin sourced from one of the currently approved manufacturers should cease.
The review was carried out under an 'Article 6(12)' referral[1].

What is Extraneal?
Extraneal is a solution that is used in peritoneal dialysis. This is a blood clearance technique used in patients with long-term kidney failure, when a solution is pumped into the abdomen and an internal body membrane filters the blood.
Extraneal is a solution that contains icodextrin as the active substance, as well as sodium lactate, sodium chloride, calcium chloride and magnesium chloride. Icodextrin is a type of sugar that is used to keep blood glucose at the correct level. Extraneal is used in particular in patients who cannot be treated with solutions containing glucose.

Why was Extraneal reviewed?
Extraneal is authorised in the European Union under a mutual recognition procedure on the basis of the initial authorisation granted by the United Kingdom in 1997. The company applied for a change (variation) to the marketing authorisation to include a test to measure the level of an impurity called peptidoglycan during the medicine's production process. Peptidoglycans had been linked to cases of inflammation of the peritoneum (the lining of the abdomen) in some patients receiving Extraneal. This variation was to be recognised in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden (the concerned Member States). Because these Member States were not able to reach an agreement, the Dutch medicines regulatory agency referred the matter to the CHMP for arbitration on 9 July 2009.
The grounds for the referral were that more sensitive tests than those proposed by the company could be used to detect peptidoglycans in the medicine, and that one of the currently approved manufacturers of the active substance should modify the manufacturing process of icodextrin to ensure that peptidoglycans are removed.

What are the conclusions of the CHMP?
Based on evaluation of the currently available data and the scientific discussion within the Committee, the CHMP concluded that the variation to the marketing authorisation for Extraneal can be approved in all concerned Member States.

The European Commission issued a decision on 10 January 2010.

[1] Article 6(12) of Regulation (EC) 1084/2003 as amended, referral on a variation to a marketing authorisation

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HB, UK
Tel. (44-20) 74 18 84 00 Fax (44-20) 74 18 84 16
E-mail: mail@emea.europa.eu http://www.emea.europa.eu

© European Medicines Agency, 2009. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Rapporteur:	Dr Ian Hudson (United Kingdom)
Co-rapporteur(s):	Dr Barbara van Zwieten Boot (Netherlands)
Referral start date:	23 July 2009
Company responses provided on:	31 August 2009
Opinion date:	22 October 2009