



רופא/ה נכבד/ה,

רוקח/ת נכבד/ה,

חברת נוברטיס ישראל בע"מ מבקשת להודיעכם על עדכון העלון של התכשיר עודכן:

| שם תכשיר | מספר רישום      |
|----------|-----------------|
| Rixathon | 162-10-35741-00 |

המרכיב הפעיל הינו: rituximab 10mg/ml

**ההתוויות הרשומות לתכשיר בישראל הינו:**

Rixathon is indicated for the following indications:

**\* Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL):**

Rixathon is indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory low-grade or follicular, B-cell nonhodgkin's lymphoma.

Rixathon is indicated for the treatment of previously untreated patients with low-grade or follicular lymphoma in combination with chemotherapy.

Rixathon is indicated for the treatment of patients with CD20 positive diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in combination with CHOP chemotherapy.

Rixathon maintenance therapy is indicated for the treatment of follicular lymphoma patients responding to induction therapy.

**\* Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL):**

Rixathon in combination with chemotherapy is indicated for the treatment of patients with previously untreated and relapsed/refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. Only limited data are available on efficacy and safety for patients previously treated with monoclonal antibodies including Rixathon or patients refractory to previous Rixathon plus chemotherapy.

**\* Granulomatosis with polyangiitis and Microscopic polyangiitis:**

Rixathon, in combination with glucocorticoids, is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) (Wegener's Granulomatosis (WG) and Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA).

**\*Pemphigus vulgaris (PV):**

Rixathon is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe pemphigus vulgaris (PV)

בהודעה זו מצויינים רק הסעיפים בהם בוצעו שינויים מהותיים ועדכוני בטיחות בעלונים לרופא ולצרכן. החמרות הודגשו בצורה, עדכוני שאינם החמרות סומנו בצבע שונה, ומידע שהוסר סומן עם קו חוצה.

העלון לרופא נשלח לפרסום במאגר התרופות שבאתר משרד הבריאות:

לעדכונכם בברכה,

מגר' דפנה סנדובסקי

רוקחת ממונה חטיבת סנדוז

נוברטיס ישראל בע"מ

## השינויים בעלון לרופא:

### Granulomatosis with polyangiitis and microscopic polyangiitis

The recommended dosage of Rixathon for induction of remission therapy of granulomatosis with polyangiitis and microscopic polyangiitis is 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> body surface area, administered as an intravenous infusion once weekly for 4 weeks (four infusions in total).

~~Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia (PCP) prophylaxis is recommended for patients with granulomatosis with polyangiitis or microscopic polyangiitis during and following Rixathon treatment, as appropriate.~~

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#### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

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##### *Infections*

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~~Cases of enteroviral meningoencephalitis including fatalities have been reported following use of rituximab.~~

##### False negative serologic testing of infections

~~Due to the risk of false negative serologic testing of infections, alternative diagnostic tools should be considered in case of patients presenting with symptoms indicative of rare infectious disease e.g. West Nile virus and neuroborreliosis.~~

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### Granulomatosis with polyangiitis, microscopic polyangiitis and pemphigus vulgaris

#### Infusion related reactions

Rituximab is associated with infusion related reactions (IRRs), which may be related to release of cytokines and/or other chemical mediators. ~~Premedication consisting of an analgesic/anti pyretic drug and an anti histaminic drug, should always be administered before each infusion of Rixathon.~~

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#### Immunisation

Physicians should review the patient's vaccination status and patients should, if possible, be brought up-to-date with all immunisations in agreement with current immunisation guidelines prior to initiating Rixathon therapy. Vaccination should be completed at least 4 weeks prior to first administration of Rixathon.

~~Physicians should review the patient's vaccination status and follow current immunisation guidelines prior to Rixathon therapy. Vaccination should be completed at least 4 weeks prior to first administration of Rixathon.~~

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#### 4.8 Undesirable effects

**Table 1 ADRs reported in clinical trials or during post-marketing surveillance in patients with NHL and CLL disease treated with rituximab monotherapy/maintenance or in combination with chemotherapy**

| System Organ Class                          | Very Common  | Common  | Uncommon  | Rare   | Very Rare  | Not known   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Infections and infestations</b>          | bacterial infections, viral infections, +bronchitis              | sepsis, +pneumonia, +febrile infection, +herpes zoster, +respiratory tract infection, fungal infections, infections of unknown aetiology, +acute bronchitis, +sinusitis, hepatitis B <sup>1</sup> |   | serious viral infection <sup>2</sup><br>Pneumocystis jirovecii | PML  | enteroviral meningoencephalitis <sup>2,3</sup>                  |
| <b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b> | neutropenia, leucopenia, +febrile neutropenia, +thrombocytopenia | anaemia, +pancytopenia, +granulocytopenia   | coagulation disorders, aplastic anaemia, haemolytic anaemia, lymphadenopathy  |  | transient increase in serum IgM levels <sup>3</sup>                            | late neutropenia <sup>3</sup>                                   |
| <b>Immune system disorders</b>              | infusion related reactions <sup>4</sup> , angioedema             | hypersensitivity  |   | anaphylaxis  | tumour lysis syndrome, cytokine release syndrome <sup>4</sup> , serum sickness | infusion-related acute reversible thrombocytopenia <sup>4</sup> |
| <b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>   |  | hyperglycaemia, weight decrease, peripheral oedema, face oedema, increased LDH, hypocalcaemia   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Psychiatric disorders</b>                |  |   | depression, nervousness   |  |  |   |
| <b>Nervous system disorders</b>             |  | paraesthesia, hypoaesthesia, agitation, insomnia, vasodilatation, dizziness, anxiety  | Dysgeusia   |  | peripheral neuropathy, facial nerve palsy <sup>5</sup>                         | cranial neuropathy, loss of other senses <sup>5</sup>           |
| <b>Eye disorders</b>                        |  | lacrimation disorder, conjunctivitis  |   |  | severe vision loss <sup>5</sup>  |   |
| <b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>          |  | tinnitus, ear pain  |   |  |  | hearing loss <sup>5</sup>                                       |
| <b>Cardiac disorders</b>                    |  | +myocardial infarction <sup>4 and 6</sup> , arrhythmia, +atrial fibrillation, tachycardia, +cardiac disorder  | +left ventricular failure, +supraventricular tachycardia, +ventricular tachycardia, +angina, +myocardial ischaemia, bradycardia | severe cardiac disorders <sup>4 and 6</sup>                    | heart failure <sup>4 and 6</sup>   |   |

| System Organ Class   | Very Common                           | Common   | Uncommon   | Rare                                   | Very Rare   | Not known         |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|-------------------|
| <b>Vascular disorders</b>                                    |                                       | hypertension, orthostatic hypotension, hypotension   |  |  | vasculitis (predominately cutaneous), leukocytoclastic vasculitis   |                   |
| <b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>       |                                       | Bronchospasm <sup>4</sup> , respiratory disease, chest pain, dyspnoea, increased cough, rhinitis   | asthma, bronchiolitis obliterans, lung disorder, hypoxia | interstitial lung disease <sup>7</sup> | respiratory failure <sup>4</sup>  | lung infiltration |
| <b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>                            | nausea                                | vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, dysphagia, stomatitis, constipation, dyspepsia, anorexia, throat irritation                           | abdominal enlargement                                    |  | gastro-intestinal perforation <sup>7</sup>  |                   |
| <b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>                | pruritus, rash, <sup>+</sup> alopecia | urticaria, sweating, night sweats, <sup>+</sup> skin disorder  |  |  | severe bullous skin reactions, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (Lyell's syndrome) <sup>7</sup> |                   |
| <b>Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders</b> |                                       | hypertonia, myalgia, arthralgia, back pain, neck pain, pain  |  |  |   |                   |
| <b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>                           |                                       |  |  |  | renal failure <sup>4</sup>  |                   |
| <b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>  | fever, chills, asthenia, headache     | tumour pain, flushing, malaise, cold syndrome, <sup>+</sup> fatigue, <sup>+</sup> shivering, <sup>+</sup> multi-organ failure <sup>4</sup> | infusion site pain                                       |  |   |                   |
| <b>Investigations</b>  | decreased IgG levels                  |  |  |  |   |                   |

For each term, the frequency count was based on reactions of all grades (from mild to severe), except for terms marked with "+" where the frequency count was based only on severe (≥grade 3 NCI common toxicity criteria) reactions. Only the highest frequency observed in the trials is reported

<sup>1</sup> includes reactivation and primary infections; frequency based on R-FC regimen in relapsed/refractory CLL

<sup>2</sup> see also section infection below

<sup>3</sup> **observed during post-marketing surveillance**

<sup>34</sup> see also section haematologic adverse reactions below

<sup>5</sup> see also section infusion related reactions below. Rarely fatal cases reported

<sup>6</sup> signs and symptoms of cranial neuropathy. Occurred at various times up to several months after completion of rituximab therapy

<sup>7</sup> observed mainly in patients with prior cardiac condition and/or cardiotoxic chemotherapy and were mostly associated with infusion-related reactions

<sup>8</sup> includes fatal cases

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### Description of selected adverse reactions

#### *Infections*

Rituximab induces B-cell depletion in about 70-80% of patients but was associated with decreased serum immunoglobulins only in a minority of patients.

Localized candida infections as well as Herpes zoster were reported at a higher incidence in the

rituximab-containing arm of randomised studies. Severe infections were reported in about 4% of patients treated with rituximab monotherapy. Higher frequencies of infections overall, including grade 3 or 4 infections, were observed during rituximab maintenance treatment up to 2 years when compared to observation. There was no cumulative toxicity in terms of infections reported over a 2-year treatment period. In addition, other serious viral infections either new, reactivated or exacerbated, some of which were fatal, have been reported with rituximab treatment. The majority of patients had received rituximab in combination with chemotherapy or as part of a haematopoietic stem cell transplant. Examples of these serious viral infections are infections caused by the herpes viruses (Cytomegalovirus, Varicella Zoster Virus and Herpes Simplex Virus), JC virus (progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)), [enterovirus \(meningoencephalitis\)](#) and hepatitis C virus ([see section 4.4](#)). Cases of fatal PML that occurred after disease progression and retreatment have also been reported in clinical trials. Cases of hepatitis B reactivation, have been reported, the majority of which were in patients receiving rituximab in combination with cytotoxic chemotherapy. In patients with relapsed/refractory CLL, the incidence of grade 3/4 hepatitis B infection (reactivation and primary infection) was 2% in R-FC vs 0% FC. Progression of Kaposi's sarcoma has been observed in rituximab-exposed patients with pre-existing Kaposi's sarcoma. These cases occurred in non-approved indications and the majority of patients were HIV positive.

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#### Experience from granulomatosis (GPA) with polyangiitis and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA)

##### *Induction of remission (GPA/MPA Study 1)*

In the GPA/MPA study 1, 99 patients were treated for induction of remission of GPA and MPA with rituximab (375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, once weekly for 4 weeks) and glucocorticoids (see section 5.1).

The ADRs listed in Table 2 were all adverse events which occurred at an incidence of  $\geq 5\%$  in the rituximab group and at a higher frequency than the comparator group.

**Table 2 Adverse reactions occurring at 6 months in  $\geq 5\%$  of patients receiving rituximab in GPA / MPA Study 1 (Rituximab n=99 at a higher frequency than the comparator group), or during post-marketing surveillance**

| MedDRA System organ class                                     | Frequency                 |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Infections and infestations</b>                            |                           |
| Urinary tract infection                                       | 7%                        |
| Bronchitis  | 5%                        |
| Herpes zoster   | 5%                        |
| Nasopharyngitis   | 5%                        |
| Serious viral infection <sup>1</sup>                          | not known                 |
| <a href="#">Enteroviral meningoencephalitis<sup>1,2</sup></a> | <a href="#">not known</a> |
| <b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>                   |                           |
| Thrombocytopenia  | 7%                        |
| <b>Immune system disorders</b>                                |                           |
| Cytokine release syndrome                                     | 5%                        |
| <b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>                     |                           |
| Hyperkalaemia   | 5%                        |
| <b>Psychiatric disorders</b>                                  |                           |
| Insomnia  | 14%                       |
| <b>Nervous system disorders</b>                               |                           |
| Dizziness   | 10%                       |
| Tremor  | 10%                       |
| <b>Vascular disorders</b>                                     |                           |
| Hypertension  | 12%                       |
| Flushing  | 5%                        |

| MedDRA System organ class                                   | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Adverse reaction</b>                                     |           |
| <b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>      |           |
| Cough   | 12%       |
| Dyspnoea  | 11%       |
| Epistaxis   | 11%       |
| Nasal congestion  | 6%        |
| <b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>                           |           |
| Diarrhoea   | 18%       |
| Dyspepsia   | 6%        |
| Constipation  | 5%        |
| <b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>               |           |
| Acne  | 7%        |
| <b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>      |           |
| Muscle spasms   | 18%       |
| Arthralgia  | 15%       |
| Back pain   | 10%       |
| Muscle weakness   | 5%        |
| Musculoskeletal pain  | 5%        |
| Pain in extremities   | 5%        |
| <b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b> |           |
| Peripheral oedema   | 16%       |
| <b>Investigations</b>                                       |           |
| Decreased haemoglobin                                       | 6%        |

<sup>1</sup> Observed during post-marketing surveillance. See also section infections below.

<sup>2</sup> [See also infections below](#)

*Tabulated list of adverse reactions for PV Studies 1 and 2*

Adverse reactions from PV Studies 1 and 2 are presented in Table 4. In PV Study 1, ADRs were defined as adverse events which occurred at a rate of  $\geq 5\%$  among rituximab-treated PV patients, with a  $\geq 2\%$  absolute difference in incidence between the rituximab-treated group and the standard-dose prednisone group up to month 24. No patients were withdrawn due to ADRs in Study 1. In PV Study 2, ADRs were defined as adverse events occurring in  $\geq 5\%$  of patients in the rituximab arm and assessed as related.

**Table 4 Adverse reactions in rituximab-treated pemphigus vulgaris patients in PV Study 1 (up to month 24) and PV Study 2 (up to Week 52), or during post-marketing surveillance**

| MedDRA System Organ Class  | Very Common                       | Common   | Not known  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Infections and infestations</b>   | Upper respiratory tract infection | Herpes virus infection<br>Herpes zoster<br>Oral herpes<br>Conjunctivitis<br>Nasopharyngitis<br>Oral candidiasis<br>Urinary tract infection | Serious viral infection <sup>1,2</sup> ,<br><b>Enteroviral meningoencephalitis<sup>1</sup></b> |
| <b>Neoplasms Benign, Malignant and Unspecified (incl cysts and polyps)</b> |                                   | Skin papilloma   |  |
| <b>Psychiatric disorders</b>   | Persistent depressive disorder    | Major depression<br>Irritability   |  |
| <b>Nervous system disorders</b>  | Headache                          | Dizziness  |  |

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Cardiac disorders</b>                                     |   | Tachycardia                                     |  |
| <b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>                            |   | Abdominal pain upper                            |  |
| <b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>                | Alopecia                                  | Pruritus<br>Urticaria<br>Skin disorder          |  |
| <b>Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders</b> |   | Musculoskeletal pain<br>Arthralgia<br>Back pain |  |
| <b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>  |   | Fatigue<br>Asthenia<br>Pyrexia                  |  |
| <b>Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications</b>        | Infusion-related reactions <sup>3,2</sup> |   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Observed during post-marketing surveillance. See also section infections below.

<sup>2</sup> see also section infections below

<sup>3,2</sup> Infusion-related reactions for PV Study 1 included symptoms collected on the next scheduled visit after each infusion, and adverse events occurring on the day of or one day after the infusion. The most common infusion-related reaction symptoms/Preferred Terms for PV Study 1 included headaches, chills, high blood pressure, nausea, asthenia and pain.

