

# ANTI-ERYTHROPOIETIN ANTIBODY-MEDIATED PURE RED CELL APLASIA (AEAB-PRCA) IS A RARE SIDE EFFECT OF ESAs<sup>1</sup>

Investigate for possible antibody-mediated PRCA when a patient receiving Mircera therapy develops the following<sup>1</sup>:

## Diagnostic Criteria for PRCA<sup>1</sup>:

- ▼ Sudden rapid decrease in hemoglobin (Hb) concentration at the rate of 0.5 to 1.0 g/dL (5 to 10 g/L) per week **OR** requirement of red blood cell (RBC) transfusions at the rate of approximately 1 to 2 per week, **AND**
- ▼ Normal platelet and white cell counts, **AND**
- ▼ Absolute reticulocyte count less than 10,000/ $\mu$ L ( $10 \times 10^9$ /L)

If there is high suspicion of AEAB-PRCA associated with Mircera use in patient, withhold Mircera. It is recommended that the patient's serum be tested for anti-erythropoietin antibodies.<sup>2</sup>

## Confirmational investigations<sup>3</sup>:

- ▼ Bone marrow aspirate shows normal cellularity and <5% erythroblasts, with evidence of a maturation block.
- ▼ Serum assay shows presence of anti-erythropoietin antibodies and evidence of their neutralizing capacity.

Please report any case of suspected AEAB-PRCA in relation to Mircera via email or phone to Vifor Pharma:

- ▼ Email: [PRCA\\_VP@viforpharma.com](mailto:PRCA_VP@viforpharma.com)
- ▼ Tel: 1-800-576-8295

## Important:

- In the event that PRCA is suspected in relation to Mircera, please contact Vifor Pharma for further information on antibody testing. Please note that Vifor Pharma will request additional information on the case in order to perform a comprehensive assessment and make a recommendation as to whether antibody testing is indicated based on the information provided.
- Vifor Pharma will cover the costs of sample transport and antibody testing at the designated reference laboratory in St Charles, MO (Eurofins Pharma Bioanalytics Services USA). In addition, Vifor Pharma will arrange for shipment of the sample directly from the reporting facility via a courier service.

If you have any questions about antibody testing for AEAB-PRCA related to Mircera, you can also contact Vifor Pharma at [PRCA\\_VP@viforpharma.com](mailto:PRCA_VP@viforpharma.com).

## Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta) Injection, for Intravenous or Subcutaneous Use

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE<sup>2</sup>

Mircera is an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA) indicated for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in:

- ▼ adult patients on dialysis and adult patients not on dialysis
- ▼ pediatric patients 5 to 17 years of age on hemodialysis who are converting from another ESA after their hemoglobin level was stabilized with an ESA

### Limitations of Use

Mircera is not indicated and is not recommended for use:

- ▼ In the treatment of anemia due to cancer chemotherapy
- ▼ As a substitute for RBC transfusions in patients who require immediate correction of anemia

Mircera has not been shown to improve quality of life, fatigue, or patient well-being.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on pages 2-3, full [Prescribing Information](#) including **Boxed WARNING**, and **Medication Guide**.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION<sup>2</sup>

**WARNING: ESAs INCREASE THE RISK OF DEATH, MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, STROKE, VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM, THROMBOSIS OF VASCULAR ACCESS and TUMOR PROGRESSION OR RECURRENCE**

**Chronic Kidney Disease:**

- ▼ In controlled trials, patients experienced greater risks for death, serious adverse cardiovascular reactions, and stroke when administered erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) to target a hemoglobin level of greater than 11 g/dL.
- ▼ No trial has identified a hemoglobin target level, ESA dose, or dosing strategy that does not increase these risks.
- ▼ Use the lowest Mircera dose sufficient to reduce the need for red blood cell (RBC) transfusions.

**Cancer:**

- ▼ Mircera is not indicated and is not recommended for the treatment of anemia due to cancer chemotherapy. A dose-ranging study of Mircera was terminated early because of more deaths among patients receiving Mircera than another ESA.
- ▼ ESAs shortened overall survival and/or increased the risk of tumor progression or recurrence in clinical studies in patients with breast, non-small cell lung, head and neck, lymphoid, and cervical cancers.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Mircera is contraindicated in patients with:

- ▼ Uncontrolled hypertension
- ▼ Pure red cell aplasia (PRCA) that begins after treatment with Mircera or other erythropoietin protein drugs
- ▼ History of serious or severe allergic reactions to Mircera (e.g., anaphylactic reactions, angioedema, bronchospasm, pruritus, skin rash, and urticaria).

### INCREASED MORTALITY, MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, STROKE, AND THROMBOEMBOLISM

- ▼ In controlled clinical trials of patients with CKD comparing higher hemoglobin targets (13 to 14 g/dL) to lower targets (9 to 11.3 g/dL), ESAs increased the risk of death, myocardial infarction, stroke, congestive heart failure, thrombosis of hemodialysis vascular access, and other thromboembolic events in the higher target groups.
- ▼ Using ESAs to target a hemoglobin level of greater than 11 g/dL increases the risk of serious adverse cardiovascular reactions and has not been shown to provide additional benefit. Use caution in patients with coexistent cardiovascular disease and stroke. Patients with CKD and an insufficient hemoglobin response to ESA therapy may be at even greater risk for cardiovascular reactions and mortality than other patients. A rate of hemoglobin rise of greater than 1 g/dL over 2 weeks may contribute to these risks.
- ▼ In controlled clinical trials of patients with cancer, ESAs increased the risks for death and serious adverse cardiovascular reactions. These adverse reactions included myocardial infarction and stroke.
- ▼ In controlled clinical trials, ESAs increased the risk of death in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) and the risk of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) in patients undergoing orthopedic procedures.

### INCREASED MORTALITY AND/OR INCREASED RISK OF TUMOR PROGRESSION OR RECURRENCE IN PATIENTS WITH CANCER

- ▼ Mircera is not indicated and is not recommended for use in the treatment of anemia due to cancer chemotherapy. A dose-ranging trial of Mircera in 153 patients who were undergoing chemotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer was terminated prematurely because more deaths occurred among patients receiving Mircera than another ESA.
- ▼ ESAs resulted in decreased locoregional control/progression-free survival and/or overall survival. These findings were observed in studies of patients with advanced head and neck cancer receiving radiation therapy, in patients receiving chemotherapy for metastatic breast cancer or lymphoid malignancy, and in patients with non-small cell lung cancer or various malignancies who were not receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

### HYPERTENSION

- ▼ Mircera is contraindicated in patients with uncontrolled hypertension.
- ▼ In Mircera clinical studies, approximately 27% of patients with CKD, including patients on dialysis and patients not on dialysis, required intensification of antihypertensive therapy. Hypertensive encephalopathy and/or seizures have been observed in patients with CKD treated with Mircera.
- ▼ Appropriately control hypertension prior to initiation of and during treatment with Mircera. Reduce or withhold Mircera if blood pressure becomes difficult to control. Advise patients of the importance of compliance with antihypertensive therapy and dietary restrictions.

### SEIZURES

- ▼ Seizures have occurred in patients participating in Mircera clinical studies. During the first several months following initiation of Mircera, monitor patients closely for premonitory neurologic symptoms. Advise patients to contact their healthcare practitioner for new-onset seizures, premonitory symptoms, or change in seizure frequency.

**Please see full Prescribing Information including Boxed WARNING, and Medication Guide for Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta) Injection, for Intravenous or Subcutaneous Use.**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

### LACK OR LOSS OF HEMOGLOBIN RESPONSE TO MIRCERA

- ▼ For lack or loss of hemoglobin response to Mircerca, initiate a search for causative factors (e.g., iron deficiency, infection, inflammation, bleeding).
- ▼ If typical causes of lack or loss of hemoglobin response are excluded, evaluate for PRCA. In the absence of PRCA, follow dosing recommendations for management of patients with an insufficient response to Mircerca therapy.

### PURE RED CELL APLASIA

- ▼ Cases of PRCA and of severe anemia, with or without other cytopenias that arise following the development of neutralizing antibodies to erythropoietin have been reported in the postmarketing setting in patients treated with Mircerca. This has been reported predominantly in patients with CKD receiving ESAs by subcutaneous administration. PRCA was not observed in clinical studies of Mircerca.
- ▼ PRCA has also been reported in patients receiving ESAs for anemia related to hepatitis C treatment (an indication for which Mircerca is not approved).
- ▼ If severe anemia and low reticulocyte count develop during treatment with Mircerca, withhold Mircerca and evaluate patients for neutralizing antibodies to erythropoietin. Serum samples should be obtained at least a month after the last Mircerca administration to prevent interference of Mircerca with the assay. **Contact Vifor at 1-800-576-8295 to perform assays for binding and neutralizing antibodies.** Permanently discontinue Mircerca in patients who develop PRCA following treatment with Mircerca or other erythropoietin protein drugs. Do not switch patients to other ESAs as antibodies may cross-react.

### SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTIONS

- ▼ Serious allergic reactions, including anaphylactic reactions, angioedema, bronchospasm, tachycardia, pruritus, skin rash and urticaria have been reported in patients treated with Mircerca. If a serious allergic or anaphylactic reaction occurs due to Mircerca, immediately and permanently discontinue Mircerca and administer appropriate therapy.

### SEVERE CUTANEOUS REACTIONS

- ▼ Blistering and skin exfoliation reactions including Erythema multiforme and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS)/Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), have been reported in patients treated with ESAs (including Mircerca) in the postmarketing setting. Discontinue Mircerca therapy immediately if a severe cutaneous reaction, such as SJS/TEN, is suspected.

### DIALYSIS MANAGEMENT

- ▼ Patients may require adjustments in their dialysis prescription after initiation of Mircerca. Patients receiving Mircerca may require increased anticoagulation with heparin to prevent clotting of the extracorporeal circuit during hemodialysis.

### ADVERSE EVENTS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

- ▼ Most frequent adverse reactions (>5%) in adult patients with CKD treated with Mircerca were hypertension, diarrhea, nasopharyngitis, upper respiratory tract infection, headache, muscle spasms, procedural hypotension, fluid overload, vomiting, back pain, cough, hypotension, constipation, urinary tract infection, pain in extremity, arteriovenous fistula thrombosis, arteriovenous fistula site complication.
- ▼ In pediatric patients on hemodialysis, all reported adverse reactions regardless of causality (more than 5% incidence) were headache, nasopharyngitis, hypertension, vomiting, bronchitis, abdominal pain, arteriovenous fistula thrombosis, cough, device related infection, hyperkalemia, pharyngitis, pyrexia, thrombocytopenia, and thrombosis in device.

### INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF USE

- ▼ Mircerca is indicated for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adult patients on dialysis and adult patients not on dialysis, and pediatric patients 5 to 17 years of age on hemodialysis who are converting from another ESA after their hemoglobin level was stabilized with an ESA.
- ▼ Mircerca is not indicated and is not recommended for use in the treatment of anemia due to cancer chemotherapy, or as a substitute for RBC transfusions in patients who require immediate correction of anemia.
- ▼ Mircerca has not been shown to improve quality of life, fatigue, or patient well-being.

**Please see full Prescribing Information including **Boxed WARNING**, and **Medication Guide for Mircerca (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta) Injection, for Intravenous or Subcutaneous Use.****

#### References:

1. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Anemia Work Group. KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease. Kidney Int., Suppl. 2012;2: 279–335.
2. MIRCERA® [prescribing information]. St. Gallen, Switzerland: Vifor (International) Inc.; June 2018.
3. Casadevall N et al. Recommendations on haematological criteria for the diagnosis of epoetin-induced pure red cell aplasia. Eur J Haematol 2004;73:389-396.