



2008-04
Plymouth
Area
Joint
Formulary

Guidance for Rosiglitazone Prescribing

GlaxoSmithKline is revising its product labels on all Rosiglitazone containing products in light of information acquired from clinical trials. The new label will state that available data indicate that Rosiglitazone may be associated with an increased risk of myocardial ischaemic events. Whilst the data in their entirety remain inconclusive, it is acknowledged that there are limited clinical trial data in patients with Ischaemic Heart Disease and/or Peripheral Arterial Disease, especially those with myocardial ischaemic symptoms. The new label will state that as a precaution the use of Rosiglitazone is not recommended in these patients.

Plymouth Diabetes Centre therefore suggests the following:

1. All patients receiving Rosiglitazone therapy should be reviewed.
2. If these individuals have Ischaemic Heart Disease or Peripheral Vascular Disease then Rosiglitazone should be stopped.
3. If therapy with a glitazone remains appropriate then they should be switched from Rosiglitazone to Pioglitazone. Whilst doses are not exactly equivalent we would suggest that those on 2mg of Rosiglitazone are changed to 15mg of Pioglitazone, those on 4mg of Rosiglitazone are switched to 30mg of Pioglitazone and those on 8mg of Rosiglitazone are switched to 45mg of Pioglitazone.
4. Because the baseline risk of Ischaemic Heart Disease in those with Type 2 Diabetes is high, Pioglitazone, which has not been associated with any increased risk of Myocardial Ischaemic, should be considered the most appropriate first line glitazone in these patients.

May we take this opportunity to remind you that the use of glitazones is contra-indicated in those with left ventricular failure, since their use is associated with fluid retention. This risk is enhanced in those receiving insulin in combination with a glitazone and we recommend that such patients should be discussed with or referred to the Diabetes Centre if this combination is being considered.

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding this guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Plymouth Diabetes Centre.

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Effective Prescribing in the Plymouth Health Community

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New Joint Formulary Book

The 4th edition of the Plymouth Area Joint Formulary is now available. We have been sending them out over the last few weeks. We have been sending out named copies to prescribers and copies to each ward and department for use there. If you think you should have received one and it has not arrived please do contact us so we can update our mailing list and send you one.

Chapter Reviews

Although the new edition of the formulary is now available, the reviewing of the formulary is a continual process.
Chapter 2, Cardiovascular System is currently out for comments, which we need to have by **15th May 2008**.
Can I remind you that your comments are valuable to us whether it is the content or the format of the formulary.