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衞生署藥物辦公室
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DRUG OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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By FAX (2515 3198)
14 November 2017

The President
College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

Adverse Drug Reaction Report of Suspected Cardiac Events Associated with Nivolumab

Your attention is drawn to three local case reports received by the Department of Health (DH) concerning cardiac events associated with Nivolumab, an anti-programmed death-1 antibody used in cancer treatment.

Two cases involved the development of arrhythmia (atrial fibrillation and heart block) after the use of nivolumab alone while the remaining case concerned myocarditis experienced by a patient who was on sequential therapy with ipilimumab and nivolumab. In these three cases, the causality of the events to nivolumab could not be completely excluded.

Nivolumab can cause clinically significant immune-mediated adverse reactions. Across clinical trials of Nivolumab administered as a single agent or in combination with ipilimumab, myocarditis were reported to occur in less than 1% of patients receiving Nivolumab.

Immune-mediated adverse reactions may occur after discontinuation of Nivolumab. For any suspected immune-mediated adverse reactions, adequate evaluation should be performed to confirm aetiology or exclude other causes. Based on the severity of the adverse reaction, Nivolumab or Nivolumab in combination with Ipilimumab should be withheld and corticosteroids administered.

In Hong Kong, there are 2 registered pharmaceutical products containing nivolumab, namely Opdivo Concentrate For Solution For Infusion 40mg/4ml (HK-64231) and Opdivo Concentrate For Solution For Infusion 100mg/10ml (HK-64232), and 2 products containing Ipilimumab, namely Yervoy Concentrate For Solution For Infusion 50mg/10ml (HK-63494) and Yervoy Concentrate For Solution For Infusion 200mg/40ml (HK-63495). All the above products are registered by Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma (HK) Ltd and are prescription-only medicines. Risk of myocarditis has already been included in the package insert of Yervoy. The package

insert of Opidvo will be updated to include the risk of myocarditis. DH will remain vigilant on the issue.

Please advise your members to report any adverse events caused by drugs to the Pharmacovigilance Unit of the Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 2920, fax: 2319 6319 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the "ADR Reporting" webpage of Drug Office (http://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/adr.html). You may also wish to visit the Drug Office's website for subscription and browsing of "Drug News" which is a monthly digest of drug safety news and information issued by Drug Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Christine CHEUNG)
for Assistant Director (Drug)