Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

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Bristol-Myers Squibb Company is fully committed to assuring timely dissemination of safety information about our products to the healthcare community. We are writing to inform you of changes to the **WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS, ADVERSE REACTIONS**, and **DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION** sections of the HYDREA® (hydroxyurea capsules, USP) prescribing information.

The **WARNINGS** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections have been revised to include language regarding cutaneous vasculitic toxicities, including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene, in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxyurea, most often reported in patients with a history of, or currently receiving, interferon therapy.

The **PRECAUTIONS** section has been revised to include language regarding geriatric use of HYDREA.

The **PRECAUTIONS** and **DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION** sections have been revised to include language regarding the safe handling of HYDREA.

The following changes and additions have been made to the U.S. Package Insert for HYDREA:

1. The following information was added to the **WARNINGS** section:

Cutaneous vasculitic toxicities, including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene, have occurred in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxyurea. These vasculitic toxicities were reported most often in patients with a history of, or currently receiving, interferon therapy. Due to potentially severe clinical outcomes for the cutaneous vasculitic ulcers reported in patients with myeloproliferative disease, hydroxyurea should be discontinued if cutaneous vasculitic ulcerations develop and alternative cytoreductive agents should be initiated as indicated.

2. A Geriatric Use subsection was added and the following information was revised in the Information for Patients subsection of the **PRECAUTIONS** section:

Geriatric Use
Elderly patients may be more sensitive to the effects of hydroxyurea, and may require a lower dose regimen.

This drug is known to be excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Renal Insufficiency**).

Information for Patients
HYDREA is a medication that must be handled with care. People who are not taking HYDREA should not be exposed to it. To decrease the risk of exposure, wear disposable gloves when handling HYDREA or bottles containing HYDREA. Anyone handling HYDREA should wash their hands before and after contact with the bottle or capsules. If the powder from the capsule is spilled, it should be wiped up immediately with a damp disposable towel and discarded in a closed container, such as a plastic bag. The medication should be kept away from children and pets. Contact your doctor for instructions on how to dispose of outdated capsules.

3. The following sentences were added to the **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section:

Cutaneous vasculitic toxicities including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene, have occurred in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxyurea. These vasculitic toxicities were reported most often in patients with a history of, or currently receiving, interferon therapy (see **WARNINGS**).

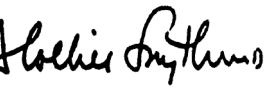
4. The following sentences were added to the **DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION** section:

To minimize the risk of dermal exposure, always wear impervious gloves when handling bottles containing HYDREA capsules. This includes all handling activities in clinical settings, pharmacies, storerooms, and home healthcare settings, including during unpacking and inspection, transport within a facility, and dose preparation and administration.

For any questions or to report serious adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of HYDREA, call **1-800-321-1335**. By calling this number, you can speak to a representative directly or use our automated Faxback system to order document code number 2000, which is the Adverse Event Reporting Form. Alternatively this information may be reported to FDA's MedWatch Reporting System by phone at **1-800-FDA-1088**, by facsimile 1-800-FDA-0178, by mail using the Form 3500 at http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/index.html.

Please refer to the accompanying revised full prescribing information for HYDREA.

Sincerely,



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