Bristol-Myers Squibb

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February 15, 2006

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company has notified the Food and Drug Administration and would like to inform you of important safety information regarding TEQUIN® (gatifloxacin) Tablets and Injection. The TEQUIN Prescribing Information has been revised to include a **CONTRAINDICATION** in diabetic patients due to serious reports of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia (dysglycemia). Additionally, the **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS** sections have been updated to identify other risk factors for dysglycemia (older age, renal insufficiency, concomitant glucose-altering medications) while taking TEQUIN, and include a recommendation for close medical monitoring.

In postmarketing experience worldwide, serious cases of both hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia have been reported in patients receiving TEQUIN. Although most of these cases were reversible, very rare events of dysglycemia were life-threatening, and a few resulted in fatal outcomes. In light of this data, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company has revised the product labeling for TEQUIN.

The following language has been added:

- **CONTRAINDICATIONS**
  TEQUIN is contraindicated in patients with diabetes mellitus.

The following sections have been revised:

- **WARNINGS: Disturbances in Blood Glucose**

  DISTURBANCES OF BLOOD GLUCOSE, INCLUDING SYMPTOMATIC HYPOGLYCEMIA AND HYPERGLYCEMIA, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH TEQUIN, USUALLY IN DIABETIC PATIENTS. HOWEVER, HYPOGLYCEMIA AND PARTICULARLY HYPERGLYCEMIA HAVE OCCURRED IN PATIENTS WITHOUT A HISTORY OF DIABETES. IN ADDITION TO DIABETES, OTHER RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DYSGLYCEMIA WHILE TAKING TEQUIN INCLUDE OLDER AGE, RENAL INSUFFICIENCY AND CONCOMITANT GLUCOSE-ALTERING MEDICATIONS (PARTICULARLY HYPOGLYCEMIC MEDICATIONS). PATIENTS WITH THESE RISK FACTORS SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED FOR GLUCOSE DISTURBANCES. IF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF EITHER HYPOGLYCEMIA OR HYPERGLYCEMIA OCCUR IN ANY PATIENT BEING TREATED WITH TEQUIN, APPROPRIATE THERAPY MUST BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY AND TEQUIN SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED.

  Transient disturbances in glucose homeostasis including an increase in serum insulin and decrease in serum glucose usually within 3 days of initiating therapy, sometimes associated with severe hypoglycemia, have been reported. Hyperglycemia, in some cases severe, also have been observed, usually after the third day of TEQUIN administration.

  During the postmarketing period, there have been very rare reports of serious disturbances of glucose homeostasis in patients treated with TEQUIN. These include hyperosmolar non-ketotic hyperglycemic coma, diabetic ketoacidosis, hypoglycemic coma, convulsions and mental status changes (including loss of consciousness). Most of these events were reversible when appropriately managed, although a few resulted in fatal outcome. **(**See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Glucose Homeostasis, CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS: Disturbances in Blood Glucose** and **ANIMAL PHARMACOLOGY.)**

- **PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions**
  Coadministration of glucose-altering medications with TEQUIN increases the patient's risk for dysglycemia. (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS: Disturbances in Blood Glucose)**

  Antidiabetic Agents: Pharmacodynamic changes in glucose homeostasis have been seen with concomitant use of glyburide and other hypoglycemic agents. No significant pharmacokinetic interactions have been observed when glyburide was administered concomitantly with TEQUIN. **(**See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Glucose Homeostasis, Drug-Drug Interactions, CONTRAINDICATIONS,** and **WARNINGS: Disturbances in Blood Glucose)**

- **PRECAUTIONS: Geriatric Use**
  Elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function and the risk of toxic reactions may be greater, therefore care should be taken in dose selection and it may be useful to monitor renal function. During the postmarketing period, serious disturbances of glucose homeostasis have been reported in elderly patients being treated with TEQUIN. Elderly patients who may have unrecognized diabetes, age-related decrease in renal function, underlying medical problems, and/or are taking concomitant glucose-altering medications may be at particular risk for serious dysglycemia. **(**See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Special Populations – *Geriatrics,* CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS: Disturbances in Blood Glucose** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Impaired Renal Function)**

When prescribing or dispensing TEQUIN, we encourage you to discuss with patients who may be at risk for hypoglycemia and/or hyperglycemia (dysglycemic events) how they can detect changes in their blood glucose levels, and measures they should take if such changes occur.

Please refer to the accompanying Important Safety Information and the enclosed FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION, including patient information, for a complete discussion of the Indications, Contraindications, Warnings, Precautions, Adverse Reactions and Dosage and Administration.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company is committed to ensuring TEQUIN is used safely and effectively and is dedicated to providing you with the most current product information for the management of your patients.

To report serious adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of TEQUIN, call 1-800-321-1335. 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, or by mail using the Form 3500 at http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/index.html.

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact our Medical Communications Department at 1-800-321-1335 from 9am to 5pm (EST) Monday–Friday.

Sincerely,

Freda Lewis-Hall, MD
Senior Vice President
Medical Affairs
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Enclosures: TEQUIN® (gatifloxacin) Full Prescribing Information
TEQUIN® (gatifloxacin) Important Safety Information