

June 2014

IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING

**Subject: Serious Risk with Use of Epicel (cultured epidermal autografts):
Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)**

Dear Health Care Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of important safety information about Epicel (cultured epidermal autografts), approved as a Humanitarian Use Device (HUD) for use in patients who have deep dermal or full thickness burns comprising a total body area of greater than or equal to 30%. It may be used in conjunction with split-thickness autografts, or alone in patients for whom split-thickness autografts may not be an option due to the severity and extent of their burns.

Serious Risk with Use of Epicel: Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)

Since 2011, four new cases of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) have been reported in patients who have received Epicel after burn injury. Distinctive features of these cases include multi-centric location, large size, aggressive growth, local recurrence after resection, and fatal outcome in two cases. The SCC in some cases occurred in the grafted areas 12 or 13 years after the Epicel grafting. A SCC latency period of 32+/-18 years in burn patients is described in the literature.

Although SCC is a known complication of burn scars, the role of Epicel in the causation of SCC cannot be excluded. After a thorough evaluation and risk assessment including reviews of specific product lots, manufacturing components, literature, and epidemiology, Genzyme determined that changes to the Epicel label are warranted. The information is provided in the following sections of the Epicel labels: (1) Direction for Use: Precautions and Adverse Reactions; (2) Patient Information.

These changes are intended to educate health care providers and patients about potential new risks associated with the use of Epicel, and to provide information to patients on how to protect their skin post-grafting.

Prescriber Action

Counsel patients about the risks and benefits of Epicel, including:

1. The potential risk for the development of skin cancers, including squamous cell carcinoma in the long-term post grafting with Epicel;
2. The need to exercise precautions when exposed to sunlight: wearing hats, sunglasses, and long clothing to cover skin; using sunscreen; avoiding direct sunlight whenever possible to protect healed burn scars or grafted skin

Advise patients to contact a health care provider immediately if any changes in the skin are noticed.

Reporting Adverse Events

Health care providers are encouraged to report adverse reactions in patients who have received Epicel. To report an adverse reaction, please contact pharmacovigilancesafety@genzyme.com or telephone 617-768-9000, option 2. To report directly to FDA, visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

This letter is not intended as a complete description of the benefits and risks associated with the use of Epicel. Please review the enclosed Direction for Use for complete information. For product related questions, please contact Genzyme at 800-CEA-SKIN or 1-800-232-7546.