

Temporary Importation of VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) Capsules, 10 mg to address drug shortage issue

March 23, 2016

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Due to the current shortage of Tretinoin Capsules, 10 mg in the United States market, CHEPLAPHARM Arzneimittel GmbH (CHEPLAPHARM) is coordinating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase availability of the drug. CHEPLAPHARM has initiated temporary importation of VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) Capsules, 10 mg into the U.S. market. FDA has not approved CHEPLAPHARM's VESANOID[®] product in the U.S., but this product is approved and marketed in 80 countries worldwide, and is manufactured in Germany for CHEPLAPHARM.

At this time, no other entity except CHEPLAPHARM is authorized by the FDA to import or distribute CHEPLAPHARM's VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) in the U.S.

VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) Capsules, 10 mg contain the same active ingredient as the U.S.-registered product. **There are some key differences in the labeling between the U.S.-marketed tretinoin capsules, 10 mg and CHEPLAPHARM's VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) (please see the product comparison table below).** Note that the labeling is in English, German, French, and Spanish.

The final decision to prescribe VESANOID[®] should be made by the prescribing physician based on their patient's needs, tolerance, and their review of the full prescribing information for VESANOID[®] Capsules, 10 mg to confirm its medical need for their patients. A copy of the prescribing information is attached to this communication for ease of review.

Property	FDA-Approved Tretinoin Capsules, 10 mg	VESANOID [®] Capsules, 10 mg
Indication	Tretinoin Capsules are indicated for the induction of remission in patients with acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL), French-American-British (FAB) classification M3 (including the M3 variant), characterized by the presence of the t(15;17) translocation and/or the presence of the PML/RAR α gene who are refractory to, or who have relapsed from, anthracycline chemotherapy, or for whom anthracycline based chemotherapy is contraindicated. Tretinoin is for induction of remission only.	VESANOID [®] (tretinoin) is indicated for induction of remission in acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL; FAB classification AML-M3). Previously untreated patients as well as patients who relapse after standard chemotherapy (anthracycline and cytosine arabinoside or equivalent therapies) or patients who are refractory to any chemotherapy may be treated with all-trans retinoic acid.
Contraindication	Teva: Tretinoin is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to tretinoin, any of its components, or other retinoids. Par: Tretinoin capsules are contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to tretinoin capsules, any of its components, or other retinoids. Tretinoin capsules should not be given to patients who are sensitive to parabens, which are used as preservatives in the gelatin capsule.	VESANOID [®] (tretinoin) is contraindicated for use in patients with known hypersensitivity to all-trans retinoic acid or any of its components. All-trans retinoic acid is teratogenic. It is therefore contraindicated in pregnancy and nursing mothers (see Pregnancy, nursing mothers). The use of all-trans retinoic acid in combination with vitamin A is contraindicated (see Interactions).
Patients without t(15;17) translocation	Initiation of therapy with tretinoin capsules may be based on the morphological diagnosis of acute promyelocytic leukemia. Confirmation of the diagnosis of APL should be sought by detection of the t(15;17) genetic marker by cytogenetic studies. If these are negative, PML/RAR α fusion should be sought using molecular diagnostic techniques. The response rate of other AML subtypes to tretinoin capsules has not been demonstrated; therefore, patients who lack the genetic marker should be considered for alternative treatment.	

Duration of Administration	Therapy should be discontinued 30 days after achievement of complete remission or after 90 day of treatment, whichever occurs first.	Treatment should be continued for 30 to 90 days until complete remission has been achieved.
Inactive ingredients	Teva: Capsule contents: butylated hydroxyanisole, edetate disodium, gelatin, hydrogenated vegetable oil, polysorbate 80, soybean oil, vitamin E, white wax (beeswax). Capsule shell: black iron oxide, red iron oxide, titanium dioxide, yellow iron oxide Par: Capsule contents: butylated hydroxyanisole, edetate disodium, ethanol, soybean oil, hydrogenated vegetable oils, medium chain triglycerides, soya lecithin, yellow beeswax. Capsule shell: gelatin, glycerin, yellow iron oxide, red iron oxide, titanium dioxide	Capsule contents: yellow beeswax, hydrogenated soybean oil, partially hydrogenated soybean oil, soybean oil. Capsule shell: gelatin, glycerol, karion (sorbitol, mannitol, starch), titanium dioxide, iron oxide yellow, iron oxide red
Storage	Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F). Protect from light.	Keep the bottle tightly closed; protect capsules from light; do not store above 30 °C.
Appearance	Teva: Two-piece hard gelatin capsule with brown opaque cap and dark yellow opaque body, filled with yellow viscous oily suspension. Imprinted in black ink with stylized barr 808. Par: two-tone (lengthwise) with reddish-brown opaque and yellow gelatin shell, imprinted with "TR" with black ink on the yellow side.	Bi-colored orange-yellow/ reddish-brown capsules
How Supplied	NDC 10370-268-01: 100 capsules/bottle NDC 0555-0808-02: 100 capsules/bottle	VESANOID® (tretinoin) soft capsules are provided in amber glass bottles of 100 capsules. NDC 10153-2341-1

The barcode used for VESANOID® may not register accurately on U.S. scanning systems. Institutions should manually input the product into their systems and confirm that barcode systems do not provide incorrect information when the product is scanned. Alternative procedures should be followed to assure that the correct drug product is being used and administered to individual patients.

Please note that VESANOID®, which was previously marketed by Roche under NDA 020438, had a National Drug Code (NDC) number assigned (0004-0250); however, this product has been discontinued, and is no longer actively marketed. Thus, it is important not to assign or confuse the NDC code for the previously marketed product VESANOID® that was marketed under NDA 020438 with the VESANOID® (tretinoin) Capsules, 10 mg currently supplied by CHEPLAPHARM.

To place an order of VESANOID®, please contact:

Elodie Braun
Phone (office): +49.3834.8539356
Fax: +49.3834.8539399
E-mail: e.braun@cheplapharm.com

Alternatively, you may contact our U.S. Agent:

Robert Zeid
Phone (office): (828) 253-2195
Phone (mobile): (910) 508-2083
E-mail: robert_zeid@tlidevelopment.com

If you have questions about the information contained in this letter or the use of VESANOID®, please contact CHEPLAPHARM via our North American liaison, Integrated Therapeutic Solutions (ITS) by email at vesanoid_medinfo@integratedTSI.com or by phone at 1-800-978-4082. Note that this number has separate extension options for safety/quality issues and medical information.

Reporting Adverse Events or Quality Issues

Health care providers and patients are encouraged to report adverse events in patients taking VESANOID Capsules, 10 mg, to CHEPLAPHARM Arzneimittel GmbH at 1-800-978-4082. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescriptions drugs to the 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 related to the use of VESANOID. Please refer to the enclosed full Prescribing Information (PI) for a complete discussion of the risks associated with VESANOID.

Sincerely,



Bianca Y. Juha, MD, MBA
Chief Scientific Officer



Dr. Juliane Niessen-Erkell, PhD

Head of Drug Safety and Medical and Scientific Affairs

VESANOID[®] (tretinoin) Capsules, 10 mg: Full Prescribing Information

The prescribing information is provided, beginning on the following page.

