Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Caution on the use of lysozyme-containing products in patients with known egg allergy

Your attention is drawn to the Singapore Health Sciences Authority’s (HSA) announcement that HSA would like to inform healthcare professionals that lysozyme which is present in lysozyme-containing therapeutic products is derived from egg white, and hence these products have the potential to cause allergic reactions in patients with egg allergies. HSA has recently received an adverse drug reaction (ADR) report of severe cough, urticaria and eczema flare in a child with known egg allergy who was given lysozyme. To date, other ADRs reported with lysozyme-containing products were mainly eye swelling and rashes. HSA will be working with the companies’ marketing lysozyme-containing products to update the respective product information labels on this safety information.

Healthcare professionals are advised to check with their patient for any history of egg allergy before prescribing or dispensing lysozyme-containing products to their patients. They are also encouraged to report any suspected serious ADRs related to these products to the Vigilance and Compliance Branch of HSA.

Please refer to the following website in HSA for details:

In Hong Kong, there are 253 registered pharmaceutical products containing lysozyme. So far, the Department of Health (DH) has not received any case of adverse drug reaction related to lysozyme. DH will remain vigilant on safety update of the drug issued by other overseas drug regulatory authorities. Healthcare professionals are advised to balance the risk of possible adverse effects against the benefit of treatment.

We build a healthy Hong Kong and aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority
Please report any adverse events caused by drugs to the Pharmacovigilance Unit of the DH (tel. no.: 2319 2920, fax: 2319 6319 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website at Drug Office under “ADR Reporting”: http://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/adr.html. You may 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 faithfully,

(Joseph LEE)
for Assistant Director (Drug)