



## **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

19 June 2024

### **RECOMMENDED CALCULATION OF CONTRACEPTION DURATION AFTER COMPLETION OF THERAPY TO MINIMISE RISK OF EMBRYOTOXICITY AND TERATOGENICITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF HALAVEN<sup>®</sup> (ERIBULIN MESYLATE)**

Dear Healthcare professional,

Eisai Pharmaceuticals Africa (Pty) Ltd, in collaboration with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) would like to inform you about the recommended calculations of contraception duration after completion of therapy with Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate), including its potential genotoxic metabolites.

#### ***Background on the safety concern***

- Eribulin is a genotoxic anticancer medicine indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer who have progressed after at least one chemotherapeutic regimen for advanced disease. Eribulin is also indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable liposarcoma who have received prior anthracycline containing therapy (unless unsuitable) for advanced or metastatic disease.

Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) may cause teratogenicity and other reproductive adverse events (embryotoxicity, mutagenicity, spontaneous abortions and foetal deaths) due to its genotoxic nature. In males, Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) may cause DNA damage in the sperm, potentially resulting in adverse events in the embryo or foetus of a female sexual partner. In females, Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) may directly affect the embryo or foetus; or may cause DNA damage in the oocytes.

To minimise the risk of drug-induced heritable DNA damage and to ensure that genomic integrity of gametes at the time of conception is maintained, female patients of childbearing potential using Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) and female sexual partners, (with childbearing potential) to male patients receiving this product are generally advised to use highly effective contraception during treatment and for an adequate period following the end of treatment.



The Professional Information (PI) and Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) of Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) will be updated to include the recommended calculation of contraception duration after completion of this product.

### Advice to healthcare professionals:

- Female patients and female sexual partners of male patients must be counselled on the risk of teratogenicity and on the use of highly effective contraception until the end of relevant systemic exposure to Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) including its potential genotoxic metabolites (i.e., five half-lives after the last dose) plus 6 months (which covers the growth and maturation phase of folliculogenesis).
- Male patients must be counselled on the risk of teratogenicity and on the use of highly effective contraception until the end of relevant systemic exposure to Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) including its potential genotoxic metabolites (i.e., five half-lives after the last dose) plus 90 days (i.e., 60–75 days for sperm production plus 10–14 days for the transport to the epididymis).
- Healthcare professionals are urged to report any adverse drug reactions (ADRs) or product quality issues associated with Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate) to SAHPRA via this eReporting link <https://primaryreporting.who-umc.org/ZA> available on the SAHPRA website ([www.sahpra.org.za](http://www.sahpra.org.za)).
- Alternatively, an ADR reporting form accessible via the SAHPRA website at <https://www.sahpra.org.za/document/adverse-drug-reactions-and-quality-problem-reporting-form/> can be completed and sent to [adr@sahpra.org.za](mailto:adr@sahpra.org.za).
- Additionally, reporting can be done via the Med Safety App. The App can be downloaded into a smart mobile phone through Google Play or App Store. For more information on Med Safety App, please visit <https://medsafety.sahpra.org.za/>.
- For more information on ADR reporting of Halaven<sup>®</sup> (eribulin mesylate), please contact the SAHPRA Pharmacovigilance unit at [pvqueries@sahpra.org.za](mailto:pvqueries@sahpra.org.za) or alternatively use the contact details indicated below:



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*hvc*  
human health care

Product name	Active ingredient:	Registration:	Contact Details
Halaven®	Eribulin mesylate	48/26/0047	<a href="mailto:medinfo@eisai.co.za">Epa-medinfo@eisai.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:vigilance@eisai.co.za">Epa-vigilance@eisai.co.za</a> Tel: 010 590 4325

Yours faithfully,

*Jana Potgieter*

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**Responsible Pharmacist**

Eisai Pharmaceuticals Africa (Pty) Ltd