AstraZeneca

April 19, 2004

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Liver Problems Associated With Use of Accolate® in Some Patients

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION CONCERNING LIVER PROBLEMS FOR PATIENTS TAKING ACCOLATE® (zafirlukast)

AstraZeneca Canada Inc. following discussions with Health Canada would like to update you on important safety information regarding Accolate®, a non-steroidal tablet for chronic treatment of asthma in adults and children 12 years of age and older, available only by prescription.

Analysis of safety databases has shown that some patients taking Accolate® have experienced **liver problems**, some of which were serious (e.g. hepatitis). Very rarely severe liver injury, including liver failure (which may result in a fatal outcome), has been observed.

Following is a list of symptoms which may be signs of **liver problems**:

- feeling sick
- feeling tired or lacking energy
- feeling like you have the flu
- loss of appetite
- feeling itchy
- pain on right side of stomach, just below ribs
- yellow colouring of skin and eyes
- dark urine
- discoloured and/or pale stools

If you are taking Accolate® and you experience any of these symptoms it is important that you contact your physician immediately. **Patients are advised that medications should not be stopped without consulting their physician. Abruptly stopping asthma medications may result in deteriorating health, which may be life-threatening.**

This advisory is in addition to a letter issued to health professionals reminding them of the above-mentioned safety information. The letter that was sent to health professionals can be found on Health Canada website http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_advisories_professionals_e.html#2004 and on AstraZeneca Website http://www.astrazeneca.ca/E/

The prescribing information for Accolate® is being revised to provide physicians and pharmacists with updated safety information. The "Information for the Patient" section of the Product Monograph will also be updated.

If you have questions regarding your current prescription, please contact your physician or pharmacist.

Any suspected adverse drug reactions in patients receiving Accolate® (zafirlukast) can be reported to:

AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
1004 Middlegate Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L4Y 1M4
Tel: 1-800-433-0733
Fax: 1-800-267-5743

Or

Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Program (CADRMP)
Marketed Health Products Directorate
HEALTH CANADA
Address Locator: 070IC
OTTAWA, Ontario, KIA 0K9
Tel: (613) 957-0337 or Fax: (613) 957-0335
Toll free: for consumers and health professionals:
Tel: 866 234-2345, Fax: 866 678-6789
Cadrmp@hc-sc.gc.ca

The ADR Reporting Form can be found in The Canadian Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties or on the TPD website, along with the ADR Guidelines at:
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/adverse_e.pdf
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/adr_guideline_e.pdf

For media inquiries contact Stephanie Engel at (905) 804-5817.