12 September 2025

Polivy® (polatuzumab vedotin)
New identified risk: Severe Infusion Site Extravasation
Update to Warnings and Precautions

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Roche Products (New Zealand), in agreement with Medsafe, would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- Infusion site extravasation (including severe events) is a new identified risk for polatuzumab vedotin. Healthcare professionals need to be aware of the full range of signs and symptoms of infusion site extravasation and the appropriate medical management.
- A comprehensive analysis of the data available across the polatuzumab vedotin programme has identified cases that provided sufficient evidence of a causal association of infusion site extravasation events with polatuzumab vedotin.

Background on the safety concern

- Polatuzumab vedotin is a CD79b-targeted antibody-drug conjugate that delivers MMAE to B-cells, indicated for the treatment of adult patients with previously untreated diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) in combination with rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and prednisone (R-CHP), and in combination with bendamustine and rituximab (BR) for the treatment of previously treated adult patients with DLBCL who are not candidates for hematopoietic stem cell transplant [1].
- Infusion site extravasation refers to the unintended leakage of a drug or fluids from the vascular system into the paravenous space, which can potentially lead to surrounding skin and soft tissue damage due to toxic effects of the infused drug.
- The signs and symptoms of infusion site extravasation events may range from sensation of burning, tingling, pain, discomfort, swelling and redness at site of injection, which may progress to more severe events like blistering, necrosis, ulceration, and tissue damage such as cellulitis. The onset of these events can occur early, within hours to days, or may be delayed, appearing weeks after the incident of extravasation [2].
- As of 09 June 2025, an estimated cumulative total of 96,261 patients have received polatuzumab vedotin across postmarketing setting and clinical settings. A cumulative analysis of the data available retrieved a total of 31 cases reporting an event of infusion site extravasation, with a crude reporting rate of 0.03% (31/96,261). Among these 31 cases, four cases of infusion site extravasation events were assessed with sufficient evidence suggesting a probable causal association between infusion site extravasation events and polatuzumab vedotin, with no alternate explanations. These cases included

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one literature case [3] (index case), one from Non-Interventional Study/Non-Interventional Program (NIS/NIP), one from a non-Roche clinical study and one unsolicited postmarketing report.
- Based upon the totality of evidence, known class effect of infusion site extravasation event associated with similar-in-class drugs such as enfortumab vedotin and brentuximab vedotin, infusion site extravasation event is considered as associated with polatuzumab vedotin.

Recommendations for Healthcare Professionals to minimise the risk:
- Ensure adequate venous access prior to initiating the infusion.
- The infusion site should be closely monitored throughout administration for signs of extravasation.
- If extravasation is suspected, the infusion should be stopped immediately. The needle should be withdrawn following a brief aspiration. The affected limb should be elevated, and appropriate symptomatic management may be initiated, as required.
- If the symptoms are mild, the remaining dose can be administered in the other limb after ensuring adequate venous access prior to initiating the infusion. Alternatively, if the symptoms are moderate to severe, the infusion may be reinitiated after resolution of events, at the discretion of the treating physician.

Roche is working closely with Medsafe to update the New Zealand Polivy Data Sheet to reflect the risk of severe infusion site extravasation, which will include an update to the *Special Warnings And Precautions For Use* sections.

This Dear Healthcare Professional Communication has been disseminated in advance of the Data Sheet update to make you aware of the new identified risk and to facilitate prompt management of the risk. Before prescribing, please review the full Polivy Data Sheet available at www.medsafe.govt.nz.

Reporting Adverse Events

Roche will continue to monitor the safety of Polivy through established reporting mechanisms and notify regulatory authorities as per current regulations. Please report any suspected adverse events via email to Roche Patient Safety at nz.drugsafety@roche.com. Alternatively, this information may be reported to CARM/Medsafe at https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/.

Further Information

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of Polivy, to report an adverse event (side effect) or product quality defect or to submit a temperature excursion assessment, please visit MedInfo.roche.com or phone 0800 276 243.

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References

1. POLIVY (polatuzumab vedotin) Approved New Zealand Data Sheet. Available at www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/p/polivyinj.pdf

2. Fidalgo, J. P., Fabregat, L. G., & ESMO Guidelines Working Group. (2012). Management of chemotherapy extravasation: ESMO–EONS clinical practice guidelines. Annals of oncology, 23, vii167-vii173.

3. Sushila A. Toulmin, Hana I. Nazir, Jeremy S. Abramson, Jacob D. Soumerai & Esther E. Freeman (2025) Polatuzumab vedotin extravasation injury: a case report, Leukemia & Lymphoma, 66:6, 1169-1171, DOI: 10.1080/10428194.2025.2456092

Yours sincerely,

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