

IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING

September 23, 2011

Re: Addition of gastrointestinal obstruction, ileus and fecal impaction as contraindications, and addition of tooth injury as a post-marketing adverse reaction to the use of FOSRENOL (lanthanum carbonate)

Dear Healthcare Professional (Nephrologists, Renal Dieticians, Dialysis Nurses),

FOSRENOL is indicated to reduce serum phosphate in patients with end stage renal disease. We want to make you aware of important changes to the labeling for FOSRENOL that relate to patient safety.

Contraindications to the use of FOSRENOL:

- bowel obstruction
- ileus
- fecal impaction

Adverse Reaction:

- tooth injury

Risk Minimization:

- FOSRENOL must not be administered to patients with bowel obstruction, ileus, or fecal impaction
- Tablets should be chewed or crushed completely before swallowing
- Intact tablets must not be swallowed
- Advise patients with poor dentition that they may crush tablets completely

There have been reports of serious cases of gastrointestinal obstruction, ileus, and fecal impaction reported in association with lanthanum, some requiring surgery or hospitalization.

Risk factors for gastrointestinal obstruction identified from post-marketing reports include alteration in gastrointestinal anatomy (e.g., history of gastrointestinal surgery, colon cancer), hypomotility disorders (e.g., constipation, ileus, diabetes) and concomitant medications (e.g., calcium channel blockers). Some cases were reported in patients with no history of gastrointestinal disease.

Cases of tooth injury with lanthanum carbonate tablet administration, identified from post-marketing experience, have been observed as well. Some of these have been associated with patient reports of tablet hardness/tablet difficult to chew. Additionally, reports of tablet hardness/tablet difficult to chew but without tooth injury have also been received. The majority of patients with an event reported while chewing the tablets as recommended were elderly (≥ 60 years of age).

Lanthanum carbonate tablets must be chewed or crushed completely and not swallowed whole.

Important Safety Information:

- FOSRENOL is contraindicated in patients with bowel obstruction, ileus and fecal impaction
- Serious cases of gastrointestinal obstruction, ileus, and fecal impaction have been associated with lanthanum use, some requiring surgery or hospitalization. Risk factors include constipation and altered gastrointestinal anatomy
- Advise patients to chew or crush the tablet completely to reduce the risk of adverse gastrointestinal events. Advise patients with poor dentition that they may crush tablets completely
- Patients with acute peptic ulcer, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, or bowel obstruction were not included in FOSRENOL clinical studies
- FOSRENOL has radio-opaque properties and may give the appearance typical of an imaging agent during abdominal X-ray procedures
- The most common reactions seen with FOSRENOL included nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain
- The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of FOSRENOL: constipation, dyspepsia, allergic skin reactions, hypophosphatemia, and tooth injury
- There is potential for FOSRENOL to interact with (1) compounds that bind to cationic antacids (i.e., aluminum-, magnesium-, or calcium-based agents), (2) oral quinolone antibiotics, and (3) thyroid replacement therapy; therefore, such concomitant medications should be dosed separately from FOSRENOL to avoid drug interactions. See specific dosing recommendations in the full Prescribing Information

- No adequate and well-controlled studies have been conducted in pregnant women and pediatric patients. FOSRENOL is not recommended for use during pregnancy
- The safety of lanthanum carbonate excreted in human milk is unknown. Caution should be exercised when FOSRENOL is administered to a nursing woman
- The use of FOSRENOL in the pediatric population is not recommended


If you have any questions about FOSRENOL, please contact Shire at 1-800-828-2088. To report adverse reactions associated with FOSRENOL, please call Shire on 1-866-470-5858 or e-mail globalpharmacovigilance@shire.com.

Also you are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see the accompanying Full Prescribing Information for FOSRENOL included with this mailing that has these changes incorporated.

The content of this letter has been reviewed and agreed to by the FDA.

Sincerely,



John Brian Copley MD, FASN, FACP
Medical Director, CDMA