



## FDA: Dangerous diabetes drug stays on market

Over the past few months we have been reporting on the attempts to remove the diabetes drug Rezulin from the market. Despite the fact that Rezulin appears to have caused severe liver disease in at least 40 patients, the FDA has decided that the drug can stay on the market.

At least 28 cases of complete liver failure resulting in death have occurred among patients taking Rezulin. Authorities in Britain have banned the drug as a result.

David Graham of the FDA's post-marketing drug risk assessment program estimated the risk of liver injury for patients taking Rezulin for six months was about 1 in 1800. "The longer you stay on Rezulin," Graham says, "the higher the risk you accumulate." ▲

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## ■ Diabetes drug withdrawn from market

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has requested that the diabetes drug troglitazone, sold under the brand name Rezulin, be withdrawn from the market. The drug has been linked to 63 deaths and 90 confirmed cases of liver failure since entering the market in mid-1997.

Public Citizen, a Washington, DC consumer advocacy group has urged the FDA to conduct a criminal investigation of the maker of Rezulin, Warner-Lambert. Public Citizen says that the company failed to notify the FDA within the 15 day limit required by law when studies showed the drug resulted in liver toxicity. The group says that Warner-Lambert did not inform the FDA of the studies until after the drug was approved for sale.

Rezulin generated Warner-Lambert revenues of \$625 million in 1997 and \$748 million in 1998.

## Hepatitis B vaccine linked to increase in diabetes

A study presented to the annual meeting of the *American Diabetes Association* finds that children who are vaccinated with the hepatitis B vaccine are at a greater risk for developing Type 1 diabetes than children who have never received the vaccine.

Type 1 diabetes is where the body doesn't make enough of the insulin that it needs and is a relatively rare condition.

In the study, 150,000 children who received the hepatitis B vaccine at 3 months of age were compared to 150,000 children who had not received the vaccine. Type 1 diabetes developed at the rate of 46 per 100,000 in the vaccinated kids and only 34 per 100,000 in the kids who didn't get vaccinated.

Waiting to vaccinate until later in life also seems to increase rates. In kids who didn't receive the vaccine until they were 12 years old, the rate of Type 1 diabetes was 17.8 cases per 100,000 while kids who had never received the vaccine only developed 6.9 cases per 100,000.

This is not the first time problems have been documented with the hepatitis B vaccine. Data released at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the *American College of Rheumatology* in november, 1998, shows that the hepatitis B vaccine has also been linked to an increase in autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis in children and adults who have been vaccinated.

For more information on the dangers of vaccination, the *National Vaccine Information Center* can be reached at 512 W. Maple Avenue, #206, Vienna, VA 22180. Their phone number is 1-800-909-shot (7468). They maintain an extremely informative website at <http://www.909shot.com>

Another site with good information is *The Informed Parent's Vaccination Home Page* at <http://www.unc.edu/~aphillip/www/vaccine/informed.htm>

A good vaccination-dangers Q&A site can be found at <http://www.nccn.net/~wwithin/vaccine.htm>

## ■ Meningitis vaccine causes diabetes in kids

The July 2002 issue of the journal *Autoimmunity* published results of a disturbing study which found that the hemophilus meningitis vaccine has been proven to cause insulin dependant diabetes in a large portion of children who are given it.

The randomized study followed more than 100,000 children who received the vaccine and more than 100,000 children who did not. After 7 years, the children who received 4 doses of the vaccine had a “statistically significant” 26% higher rate of diabetes (or an extra 54 cases per100,000 kids) than the children who did not get the vaccine. Almost all of the extra cases of diabetes caused by the vaccine occurred in the third or fourth year after vaccination occurred.

The hemophilus meningitis vaccine is expected to prevent only 7 deaths and 7 – 26 cases of permanent disability for every 100,000 kids immunized.

Commentary: When the risks of vaccines outweigh the benefits, we need to seriously reconsider their use. We have a serious problem with a disease care and prevention system that causes more damage than it prevents. With the entire vaccination issue being an emotional one, we encourage people to search out the truth for themselves.