



FDA Advisory Panel Recommends that Avandia Stay on the Market

On July 14, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel voted to keep the diabetes drug Avandia (rosiglitazone) on the market. The panel considered extensive but inconclusive data from studies on the safety of the drug. Some studies suggest that Avandia increases the risk of heart attack, while others found no increased risk.

Reflecting the complexity of the safety issues, panel members were divided about how to interpret the data from various studies. However, the majority recommended that Avandia remain on the market with new warning labels. The FDA will take the panel's recommendations into consideration in making a final decision.

In the meantime, The Hormone Foundation and The Endocrine Society, along with the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and the American Diabetes Association, offer the following advice for people taking medication for type 2 diabetes.

- **Do not stop taking your diabetes medications without first discussing it with your health care provider.** Stopping your medications can cause poorer diabetes control with higher blood glucose (sugar) levels.
- It is important to maintain good glucose control to avoid the serious short- and long-term health problems of diabetes.
- There are other types of diabetes medication available that your health care provider may consider prescribing.

The Hormone Foundation, the public education affiliate of The Endocrine Society, serves as a resource for the public by promoting the prevention, treatment, and cure of hormone-related conditions through outreach and education. For more information about the Foundation and to download free patient publications on diabetes and related conditions, visit www.hormone.org.

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