

IN BRIEF



*In
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Edition*

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BLADDER CANCER RISKS INCREASED WITH POPULAR DIABETES DRUG ACTOS

The attorneys at **Alley, Clark & Greiwe** are representing persons who developed bladder cancer while taking the diabetes drug Actos. If you or a loved one developed bladder cancer while taking Actos, please contact our firm for important information regarding your legal rights. If you are presently taking Actos, you should continue taking the drug until you discuss the risks of this medication with your health care provider.



Presently, there is an MDL (or multi-district litigation) entitled *In Re: Actos Products Liability Litigation* pending in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana before the Honorable Rebecca F. Doherty. Multidistrict litigation (MDL) is litigation comprised of multiple individual civil cases involving one or more common questions of fact and the actions are consolidated in front of one judge for pretrial discovery. In the pending civil actions, Plaintiffs allege their bladder cancer was caused by Actos, and that the drug manufacturer concealed knowledge of this risk and failed to provide adequate warnings to consumers and the health care community. Defendants have denied all allegations of fault. It is currently expected that the first trial in the Actos MDL will take place in November 2014. The medication remains on the market in the U.S.

Actos - Recent Important Developments

Sept. 2010	FDA begins formal safety review of the Type-2 diabetes drug Actos (pioglitazone) after clinical trial data revealed a 40% increased risk of bladder cancer among patients taking the drug for more than one year.
Dec. 2011	Order approving MDL No. 2299 In Re: Actos Product Liability Litigation.
June 2012	FDA officially stated that patients who use Actos for more than one year have an increased risk of developing bladder cancer and the risk of possibly developing bladder cancer would be added to the product labeling.
Sept 2012	Approximately 650 lawsuits pending in MDL No. 2299



*The Attorneys
& Staff at
Alley, Clark
& Greiwe
wish you and
your family
a very Happy
Thanksgiving.*

HOT TOPICS

SUBSTANTIAL BLEEDING RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BLOOD THINNER DRUG PRADAXA



The attorneys at **Alley, Clark & Greiwe** are investigating claims of persons severely injured while taking the blood thinner Pradaxa. Pradaxa, also known as dabigatran, is prescribed to prevent strokes and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation without valvular heart disease. Pradaxa has only been available in the U.S. since the Fall of 2010, and is a new alternative to other anti-coagulants like Coumadin and Warfarin. While those medications require frequent lab monitoring on the patients ingesting them, Pradaxa does not. It is this advantage that has been a key selling point.

However, within weeks of its launch in the U.S., the FDA received an unusually high number of early adverse event reports about Pradaxa regarding its effects on bleeding or clotting events, including hemorrhages (too much anti-clotting effect) and thromboembolic events (too little clot inhibiting effect) such as pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis. Unfortunately, there is no reversal agent for Pradaxa and some of the reports involved fatalities. Additionally, it has been determined that Pradaxa significantly increases a patient's risk of heart attack. An analysis of seven clinical trials published in January in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that Pradaxa was "significantly associated with a higher risk" of heart attacks and acute coronary syndrome, or ACS.

If you or a loved one have suffered a stroke, heart attack, brain bleed, gastrointestinal bleed, or death while taking Pradaxa, please contact the experienced trial attorneys at **Alley, Clark & Greiwe** for information about your legal rights.

If you are presently taking Pradaxa, please call your health care provider immediately if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- Unusual bleeding from the gums
- Frequent nose bleeds
- Menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- Severe or unusual bleeding
- Pink or brown urine
- Red or black stools (looks like tar)
- Bruises that happen without a known cause or that get larger
- Coughing up blood or blood clots
- Vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds

RECENT VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

\$2 million partial settlement of a wrongful death claim against a nurse who failed to call the correct physician as the patient's blood pressure was declining.

\$1.5 million settlement of a confidential pharmaceutical litigation case in 2011. The resolution of this lawsuit occurred just prior to trial.

\$205,000 confidential settlement of a defective hip implant device resolved at mediation.

Resolved at mediation the wrongful death claim of a 79 year old woman and at a separate mediation the personal injury claim of her spouse for a **total settlement of \$2.6 million**. These claims arose out of the same motor vehicle accident.

FIRM NEWS

CURRENT MASS TORTS PROJECTS

Mass tort claims are unique from other types of personal injury litigation because mass tort claims involve a large number of injury claims resulting from a single product. For more than two decades, the attorneys at **Alley, Clark & Greiwe** have successfully represented thousands of clients in various complex product liability and mass tort claims. Our firm is currently investigating and litigating claims regarding the following products:

<p>DePuy ASR Metal-on-Metal hip implant recalled 8/26/11 due to high failure rate requiring revision within the first 5 years.</p>	<p>Pradaxa An alternative to Coumadin, this blood thinner has been linked to severe bleeding events including many fatalities.</p>	<p>Vaginal Mesh Litigation Surgical mesh used in females to correct pelvic organ prolapse and/or stress urinary incontinence.</p>
<p>Zimmer Durom Cup Metal hip implant associated with high failure rates. This product was voluntarily recalled in 2008.</p>	<p>Actos Type II diabetes medication associated with increased bladder cancer risk.</p>	<p>Yasmin/Yaz Oral contraceptives associated with strokes, heart attack, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism.</p>
<p>DePuy Pinnacle Metal-on-Metal hip implant associated with high failure rates. This product is still on the market.</p>	<p>Stryker Rejuvenate Metal hip modular neck stem implant recalled in July 2012 due to widespread failure rates.</p>	<p>Fosamax and Boniva Osteoporosis medications linked to unusual, spontaneous fractures of the thigh bone.</p>

FIRM RECOGNIZED FOR LEGAL EXCELLENCE



On November 1, 2012, U.S. News Media Group and Best Lawyers® released the 2013 Best Law Firms rankings. We are very proud to report that for the third straight year, the law firm of **Alley, Clark & Greiwe** has been honored with a First-Tier ranking in the Tampa metropolitan area in both medical malpractice and personal injury litigation.

DON GREIWE HONORED AS LAWYER OF THE YEAR

We are proud to report that **Don Greiwe**, a partner of our law firm, has been honored with the distinction of **Lawyer of the Year for 2013** by *Best Lawyers*® in the area of Plaintiffs Medical Malpractice Law. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as the Lawyer of the Year. *Best Lawyers* is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Mr. Greiwe has been honored by Best Lawyers since the year 2007 for his legal excellence. If you feel that you or a loved one has been harmed as a result of medical negligence, please contact Mr. Greiwe for a free consultation.

