



FDA Announces New Safety Information on Actos

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on June 15 that the use of the diabetes drug Actos (pioglitazone) for more than one year may increase the risk of bladder cancer. The FDA will add information about this risk to the drug label and the patient medication guide that accompanies drugs containing pioglitazone.

This safety information is based on the FDA's interim review of an ongoing, ten-year study. The five-year interim results showed no overall increased risk of bladder cancer in patients taking pioglitazone, but an increased risk among a subset of patients—those taking pioglitazone for the longest time and at the highest dose.

The FDA's action follows the decision of drug regulatory agencies in France and Germany to stop the sale of Actos due to concerns about increased risk of bladder cancer. These decisions were based on a French study. The FDA will continue to evaluate data from the ongoing study, and conduct a full review of the results from the French study.

In the meantime, The Hormone Foundation and The Endocrine Society 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 poor control of blood glucose (sugar) levels.
- It is important to maintain good glucose control to avoid the serious short- and long-term health problems of diabetes.
- Talk to your healthcare professional if you have questions or concerns about pioglitazone medicines.

More information is available in the [FDA's safety announcement](#).

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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