

DM and Cancer

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At 2011-01-12 US FDA has updated safety review of Lantus (insulin glargine) and a possible increased risk of cancer ,after reviewing the four studies and has determined that the evidence presented is inconclusive, due to limitations in how the studies were designed and carried out and in the data available for analysis. These limitations can't help to attribute the observed cancer risk to Lantus.

FDA has also reviewed results from a five-year randomized clinical trial, Evaluation of Diabetic Retinopathy Progression in Subjects with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Treated with Oral Agents Plus Insulin, which compared Lantus to Neutral Protamine Hagedorn (NPH) insulin in individuals with Type 2 diabetes. The results did not reveal increased risk of cancer in subjects treated with Lantus compared to those treated with NPH insulin ,so till now FDA has not concluded that Lantus increases the risk of cancer.

Last year (2011-08) US FDA has informed and approved updated drug labels for the pioglitazone-containing medicines to include safety information that the use of pioglitazone for more than one year may be associated with an increased risk of bladder cancer. The updated drug labels recommend that healthcare professionals should not use pioglitazone in patients with active bladder cancer and use pioglitazone with caution in patients with a prior history of bladder cancer. Also such a similar statement adopted by European Medicines Agency (EMA) (2011-10) suggesting after French study that before use in any patient, physicians should take into account risk factors for bladder cancer, especially in older patients although the reported association may not reach significance in a recent publicated Taiwanese research (2011-12-30).