Diabetes Drug Rosiglitazone (Avandia®) Associated with Heart Failure and Death

People taking pioglitazone (Actos®) had a 23% lower risk of heart failure and a 14% lower risk of death than people taking rosiglitazone (Avandia®).

What does this mean?
- Rosiglitazone (Avandia®) and pioglitazone (Actos®) are oral drugs used to treat people with Type II diabetes.
- If 100 people took rosiglitazone (Avandia®) instead of pioglitazone (Actos®) for a year, our research suggests that one additional person would experience heart failure, a heart attack, or would die.

What should you do?
- If you were prescribed rosiglitazone (Avandia®) for Type II diabetes, talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits of this drug.
- Do not stop taking rosiglitazone (Avandia®) before consulting with your doctor.

How do we know this?
These findings are the results of a population-based study in which the ODPRN tracked the health records of Ontario residents over the age of 65 who had Type II diabetes, had been prescribed rosiglitazone (Avandia®) or pioglitazone (Actos®) for the first time between 2002 and 2008, and were not taking insulin at the same time. People taking pioglitazone (Actos®) had a 23% lower risk of heart failure and a 14% lower risk of death than people taking rosiglitazone (Avandia®) within a year of their first heart attack.


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