

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.

Juurlink DN, Gomes T, Lipscombe LL, Austin PC, Hux JE, Mamdani MM. Adverse cardiovascular events during treatment with pioglitazone and rosiglitazone: population based cohort study. *BMJ* 2009;339:b2942.

This Research Minute was created by the ODPRN.

The ODPRN is funded by the Ontario Drug Innovation Fund

to respond rapidly and directly to policy-makers' needs for relevant research.

For more information about the ODPRN please visit our website www.odprn.ca