

Class Action: Losartan-Containing Drugs Recall

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Hammerberg LLP has filed a Losartan-containing drugs class action suit on behalf of Canadian residents in light of Health Canada's drug recall advisory issued on March 9, 2019, stating that multiple Losartan-containing drugs have been voluntarily recalled because of potential for nitrosamine impurity.

Multiple lots of Losartan-containing drugs are being voluntarily recalled by Teva Canada, Apotex Inc., Pharmascience Inc., and Pro Doc Limitée because of the potential for a nitrosamine impurity, N-Nitroso-N-methyl-4-aminobutyric acid (NMBA). NMBA is potentially a human carcinogen, which means that long-term exposure could increase the potential risk of cancer.

Hyzaar is a combination of losartan (Cozaar) and hydrochlorothiazide and is used for treating high blood pressure. Losartan is an oral medication that belongs to a class of drugs called angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs). Other ARBs include irbesartan (Avapro), valsartan (Diovan), and candesartan (Atacand).

Assessment is ongoing as Health Canada continues to work with companies and international regulatory partners, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency, to assess the issue of nitrosamine impurities in certain sartan drugs, its root causes and mitigation measures. Health Canada's evaluation so far suggests that the nitrosamines may be generated when specific chemicals and reaction conditions are present in the manufacturing process of the drug's API. They may also result from the reuse of materials, such as solvents or starting materials, that are contaminated with the impurities. An API is the active ingredient in a drug that produces an effect on the body. APIs are used in the manufacture of finished "dosage form" drugs (such as pills, capsules or tablets).

Affected products containing Losartan manufactured by Hetero Labs Ltd. Unit 1 are being recalled. Health Canada maintains a complete list of sartan drugs that have been recalled because of nitro-samine impurities on its website. For a complete list of the drug DINs and Lot numbers affected, see <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/69272a-eng.php>

Please contact Hammerberg Lawyers, Kevin McLaren and Alexia Majidi, if you think you may have been affected by the Losartan drug recall – you may be entitled to compensation.

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