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We Never Forget that Behind Every Case, are Real People

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Avandia Heart Risks Buried by Drug Company

The pharmacy company that makes the popular diabetes drug Avandia, SmithKline Beecham, knew for over a decade that the drug caused an increased risk of heart problems – but covered up the information according to a report published in the *New York Times*.

The *Times* report said that SmithKline did not post results of its drug trial findings on its website or submit them to federal regulators. This information was based on internal company documents it obtained.

According to a March 21, 2001 email the *Times* obtained, a company executive wrote about the study results:

"This was done for the U.S. business, way under radar. Per Sr. Mgmt request, these data should not see the light of day to anyone outside of GSK." (GlaxoSmith Kline is the corporate successor to SmithKline)

This week, FDA panel will begin determining what to do about Avandia. More than half a million Americans have been prescribed Avandia, but the covered up studies issue that the drug have linked it to a raised risk of stroke, heart attack, and even death.

For more information please call 1877 MESSALAW

Recent Settlements & Verdicts

$1,250,000 total recovery for a client who suffered permanent damage to his heart as a result of his physician's negligence in prescribing a dangerous dosage of Vioxx.

Vioxx, a prescription medication used for treatment of osteoarthritis, amongst others, was approved for use in 1999. The painkiller was pulled off the market in 2004 after an analysis of patients using Vioxx linked the defective drug to more than 27,000 heart attacks or sudden cardiac deaths in the U.S. from 1999 through 2003. The withdrawal prompted thousands of product liability lawsuits that claimed Merck failed to provide adequate warnings to doctors and patients about the drug's risks.

The Plaintiff's physician failed to adhere to the appropriate treatment by prescribing 50mg of Vioxx, which is twice the recommended dosage for any patient. The manufacturer's warnings stated that patients should not receive a dosage of 50mgs for more than five consecutive days, which the Plaintiff was prescribed to take for a period of three years.

As a direct result of the physician's negligence, the Plaintiff suffered a myocardial infarction, resulting in significant cardiac injury. Due to the carelessness of the physician, the Plaintiff underwent an angioplasty procedure and was left with arrhythmia, which required an implantation of a pacemaker. The case was handled by Joseph L. Messa Jr., of Messa & Associates, P.C.

For more information regarding the case, please call 1 877 MESSA LAW or email at jneff@messalaw.com.

MRSA/SA Test Recalled Due to Rare False-Negative Results

A test to detect methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *S aureus* (SA) has been recalled by the manufacturer based on an increasing number of complaints about false negatives for MRSA.

The voluntary recall of the *Xpert MRSA/SA Blood Culture Assay* covers all kits made and distributed from October 21, 2008 through June 21, 2010. The kit is manufactured by Cephid which is based in Sunnyvale, California. The product has been distributed to hospital laboratories worldwide.

Because the test has the rare potential to generate false-negative MRSA results, patients with MRSA infections may receive incorrect treatment or delayed care, according to an alert sent by MedWatch (the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the FDA's safety information and adverse event reporting program.

Customers can continue to use the product and report results of MRSA positive/SA positive - however, when customers receive a MRSA negative/SA positive result, the company recommends conducting further antimicrobial susceptibility testing using an FDA-cleared method for an accurate MRSA finding.

For more information check out: **www.messaandassociates.blogspot.com**.

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Recent Recalls

Campbell Soup Co. is recalling nearly 15 million pounds of canned SpaghettiOs with meatballs because of possible under-processing, the U.S. agriculture department said.

The recall includes 14.75-ounce cans with a use-by date between June 2010 and December 2011 of three varieties of the product: "**SpaghettiOs with Meatballs**," "**SpaghettiOs A to Z with Meatballs**" and "**SpaghettiOs Fun Shapes with Meatballs (Cars)**."

Consumers who have purchased those products with a plant code of "**EST4K**" should not eat them and should return them to the store where they were purchased for an exchange or full refund, Campbell Soup said.

The agriculture department also said it had received no reports of illnesses from consumption of the products.

The cans were produced in Paris, Texas, between December 2008 and June 2010, and shipped to retail customers nationwide, according to Campbell Soup

In its ongoing effort to halt the use of dangerous drop-side cribs, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a 2 million crib recall involving seven companies including Evenflo, Child Craft and the maker of the Babi Italia line.

The cribs involved in this set of recalls account for 250 incidents and 27 injuries to infants and toddlers that have been reported to the CPSC. This string of recalls brings to 9 million the number of drop-side cribs recalled over the past five years.

The crib companies and the number of cribs involved in these recalls are:

- *Delta Enterprise Corp*. 747,000 drop-side plus every model that uses a wood stabilizer bar
- *LaJobi*, 306,000 Bonavita, Babi Italia and ISSI brand cribs
- *Million Dollar Baby*, 156,000
- *Jardine Enterprises*, 130,000 sold exclusively by Toys R Us/Babies R Us
- *Simmons Juvenile Products Inc*., 50,000
- *Child Craft* (total unknown because the company is out of business.
- *Evenflo*, 750,000 Jenny Lind models

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