



Sierra Endocrine Associates

Medical Group

Endocrinology, Diabetology, & Metabolism

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Dear Sierra Endocrine Associates patients:

The Food and Drug Administration issued updated information about Byetta and the association with severe pancreatitis. There have been six cases since October of 2007, two people died.

Pancreatitis is a serious inflammation of the pancreas which occurs in 17 out of every 100,000 (0.17 per 1000) people in the United States each year, that is equal to one of every 5882 Americans. Persons with diabetes are at higher risk of pancreatitis. (NIH Publication N 94-1447, NIDDK)

In research trials with Byetta, pancreatitis was seen in 1.7 per 1000 in those treated with Byetta, 3.0 per 1000 in the placebo group and 2.0 per 1000 in the insulin treated groups. Simply stated twice as many people developed pancreatitis in placebo as compared to those taking Byetta. From June 2005 to July 2007 over 750,000 persons were treated with Byetta with a spontaneous reporting of pancreatitis rate of 0.2 events per 1000 year (similar to the background rates in the general population).

We do not recommend any changes in your treatment based on these recent reports. We do advise you to seek prompt medical care if you experience unexplained persistent severe abdominal pain which may or may not be accompanied by vomiting. If pancreatitis is suspected, Byetta should be discontinued. If pancreatitis is confirmed, Byetta should not be restarted unless an alternative cause is identified.

If you would like to discuss your choices of medication further an appointment with one of our providers can be arranged.

Respectfully submitted,
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