

Drug Injury Watch: No Link Seen Between Sovaldi Or Harvoni And Liver Cancer Recurrence

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.DrugInjuryWatch.com on June 1, 2017)

We continue to monitor the safety profile of Harvoni and Sovaldi, which have been associated with the possibility of liver cancer recurrence.

The May 2017 edition of *Health Product InfoWatch* included this report, "Summary Safety Review - Direct-Acting Antivirals - Assessing the Potential Risk of Liver Cancer Recurrence", which was issued on April 27, 2017 by Health Canada.

From the Safety Review Findings part of same report we get this detailed information:

At the time of the review, Health Canada had received 3 unique Canadian reports of liver cancer recurrence related to DAAs use (2 with Sovaldi and 1 with Holkira Pak [(known as Viekira Pak in the US)]). All 3 reports were considered to be related to the use of DAAs. However, other factors present in the cases may have played a role in the liver cancer recurrence, such as serious scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), previous history of liver cancer and other treatments known to be associated with a higher risk of liver cancer recurrence, including surgery and a cancer treatment using radio waves (radiofrequency ablation).

This safety review also looked at information from 14 international reports of liver cancer recurrence related to DAAs use: 9 reports involved Sovaldi, 4 reports involved Harvoni and 1 report involved Holkira Pak [(known as Viekira Pak in the US)]. All 14 reports were considered to be related to DAAs use. However, factors known to be associated with a higher risk of liver cancer recurrence may have played a role.

A search of the scientific literature identified 7 relevant studies describing the recurrence of liver cancer related to DAA use. The safety review could not conclude whether the use of DAAs played a role because the lengths of time the patients were monitored were different between the studies. The patients also had a variety of risk factors for liver cancer, including HCV infection, cirrhosis, previous history of liver cancer and advanced age.

Some studies have found that liver cancer recurrence was more likely to happen in patients who underwent surgery or radiofrequency ablation compared to those patients that received a liver transplant.

Besides the possibility of liver cancer recurrence, Harvoni, Sovaldi, and Viekira Pak as well as the several other newer hepatitis C medicines which are part of the Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) class of drugs have been associated with acute liver injury, liver failure, and reactivation of hepatitis B.

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Earlier Harvoni / Sovaldi / Viekira Pak / Technivie articles by attorney Tom Lamb on the [Side Effects Blog](#):

- [Can Hepatitis C Drugs Harvoni Or Sovaldi Cause Return Of Liver Cancer?](#)
- [Sovaldi / Harvoni: "Black-Box" Warning About Hepatitis B Reactivation](#)
- [Newer Hepatitis C Drugs Harvoni And Sovaldi Could Cause Liver Failure](#)
- [Is The Risk Of Liver Cancer Increased From Use Of Harvoni Or Sovaldi?](#)

- [Black-Box Warning For Harvoni, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak: Hepatitis B Risk](#)

Attorney [Tom Lamb](#) represents people in personal injury and wrongful death cases involving unsafe prescription drugs or medication errors. The above article was posted originally on his blog, **Drug Injury Watch** – with live links and readers' Comments.
<http://www.DrugInjuryWatch.com>