Weight Management Drug Belviq Possibly Linked to Increased Cancer Risk

A clinical trial shows a possible increased risk of cancer and the FDA is continuing to evaluate the results.

January 14, 2020 By Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Belviq, Belviq XR (lorcaserin): Drug Safety Communication - Due to Possible Increased Risk of Cancer

ISSUE: The FDA is alerting the public that results from a clinical trial assessing safety show a possible increased risk of cancer with the weight management medicine Belviq, Belviq XR (lorcaserin). At this time, the cause of the cancer is uncertain, and we cannot conclude that lorcaserin contributes to the cancer risk. However, we wanted to make the public aware of this potential risk. We are continuing to evaluate the clinical trial results and will communicate our final conclusions and recommendations when we have completed our review.

BACKGROUND: Lorcaserin is a prescription medicine approved by FDA in 2012 for use with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity to help weight loss in adults who are obese or are overweight and have weight-related medical problems. Lorcaserin works by increasing feelings of fullness so that less food is eaten. It is available as a tablet (Belviq) and an extended-release tablet (Belviq XR).

RECOMMENDATION: Health care professionals should consider if the benefits of taking lorcaserin are likely to exceed the potential risks when deciding whether to prescribe or continue patients on lorcaserin.

Patients currently taking lorcaserin should talk to their health care professionals about the potential increased risk of cancer with use of lorcaserin.

Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to the FDA’s MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:

- Complete and submit the report online.

- Download form or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on form or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178

This announcement was originally published on the Food and Drug Administration website.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.
http://beta.docker.cancerhealth.com/blog/weight-management-drug-belviq-lorcaserin-linked-increased-cancer-risk