

NEWS BRIEF

Popular Heart and HBP Drug Recalled Due to Carcinogen Concerns

On Friday, July 13, 2018, the FDA announced a voluntary recall of medications that contain valsartan, which is a popular drug used to treat heart failure and high blood pressure (HBP). The recall was issued after a possible carcinogen (a substance that could cause cancer) was found in the recalled medications.

What exactly was found in the recalled medications?

According to the FDA, the recalled medications unexpectedly contained N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a known impurity and probable carcinogen. Their review of the products, which includes investigating the level of NDMA in drugs, assessing the potential effects of NDMA and researching future preventive measures, is just beginning and will be ongoing.

What does this mean for people who take medications containing valsartan?

While the FDA sorts out the next steps, you may be wondering what you're supposed to do if you're prescribed a medication that contains valsartan.

It's important to note that the FDA has not recalled *all* medications containing valsartan. The recalled medications and who they are manufactured by are as follows:

- Valsartan—Major Pharmaceuticals
- Valsartan—Solco Healthcare
- Valsartan—Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.
- Valsartan/Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)—Solco Healthcare
- Valsartan/Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) —Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.

To find out if you're taking one of the recalled products, look at your prescription bottle or call your local pharmacy. If you're taking one of the listed medications, please click [here](#) to read the recall instructions.

You should also call your doctor to see what your next treatment steps should be. Do not stop taking your medication without speaking to your doctor.

What's next?

The FDA will continue their review of the recalled drugs and will post updates to their website. Please visit their [site](#) for the most up-to-date information on this recall.

