

The makers of the drug Meridia are being sued in a class action lawsuit. Some are claiming the drug is harmful. Read the following notice posted on the Internet by a law firm:

FDA Petitioned to Ban Abbott Drug Meridia: Drug Related to 33 Deaths and Hundreds of Injuries

On March 27, 2002, Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP filed a national class action lawsuit in New Jersey on behalf of all persons who were prescribed the weight loss drug Sibutramine, also known as Meridia (Reductil outside the United States). As alleged in the complaint, Abbott Laboratories, Inc., USA, Knoll Pharmaceuticals Co., BASF Corporation and BASF Pharma are named as the defendants in this action due to their responsibility in manufacturing, promoting, marketing, distributing, and selling Meridia. The drug was originally manufactured and distributed in New Jersey. The class action seeks to (1) inform the public that users and consumers of Meridia are at an increased risk of harm and/or death, (2) establish a medical monitoring fund so that every consumer may be tested and treated for the adverse effects of Meridia, (3) reimburse monies paid for the product, (4) provide compensation to all victims for personal injuries and death.

On March 19, 2002, a consumer watchdog group, Public Citizen, petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban the anti-obesity medication Meridia, linking the drug to 29 deaths in the United States and four in Europe and almost 400 adverse reactions from use of the drug.

Meridia was initially developed as an anti-depressant, but during the initial development of the drug, Knoll noted that Meridia had an ability to produce weight loss and in 1990, Knoll began testing Meridia specifically as an anti-obesity agent. On September 26, 1996, the FDA advisory committee declined to recommend approval of Meridia, claiming that "Sibutramine has an unsatisfactory risk-benefit ratio and, therefore, this reviewer recommends non-approval of the original submission." The committee also expressed concern about blood pressure increase experienced by study participants. Following the FDA's initial disapproval, Knoll pushed for fast track approval. In 1997, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did approve Meridia, calling it "moderately effective" at helping patients lose weight. Today, worldwide, Meridia is marketed in seventy (70) countries and sold as Reductil in Europe. It is estimated that 8.5 million people globally have taken Meridia since its approval. An estimated 2 million people in the United States currently take the medication.

Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP has extensive experience in handling class action litigation, including drug litigation, such as our recent involvement in the nationwide Baycol class action litigation. Attorneys in our firm are prepared to assist those who have endured injuries and suffering from taking this reportedly unsafe supplement, and are ready to help those with questions about the effects of this supplement on their health in the future.

If you or a family member have taken Meridia and developed any of the symptoms reported above, or are concerned about the potential effect this supplement can have on your body in the future, please call our office toll-free and speak with one of our attorneys at 1-888-299-7706.

(Source: Schiffrin & Barroway, LLP)