

GlaxoSmithKline, or GSK, is among the top five pharmaceutical firms in the world. While having produced many successful medications you know like Advair, Valtrex and Paxil, GSK is also the maker of Avandia, a controversial type-2 diabetes medication. Avandia has been shown in studies to cause life-threatening side effects, especially for patients with underlying heart conditions. In 2006 alone, the company made nearly \$3.4 billion from sales of the deadly drug.

The company's response to questions about Avandia has been to stall and deny all allegations of the drug's danger, despite several studies proving its deadly side effects. GSK is even accused of attempting to intimidate a doctor when he raised questions about Avandia's safety in 1999.

In a recent government report, a Congressional committee looking into the problems with Avandia stated, "Americans have a right to know there are serious health risks associated with Avandia and GlaxoSmithKline had a responsibility to tell them. Patients trust drug companies with their health and their lives and GlaxoSmithKline abused that trust."

GSK continues to abuse that trust, claiming the committee took facts from studies out of context. The company claims Avandia is safe and that studies showing the risk of heart-related injury and death were inconclusive. In talking about GlaxoSmithKline's Avandia testing, the Congressional committee describes results as unreliable and invalid.

Designed to protect type-2 diabetes patients from the dangerous heart risks posed by the disease, Avandia actually worsens the heart condition of patients, increasing their risk of potentially fatal heart attacks by as much as 40 percent. This shows that Avandia is actually more dangerous to diabetes patients than diabetes itself.

Those who suffered a heart attack or lost a loved one because of an Avandia heart attack should consult an attorney who knows about GlaxoSmithKline, pharmaceutical litigation, and how to navigate the court system in such cases. Those suffering injuries from Avandia deserve to be compensated for their pain and loss. This multi-billion dollar corporation should be made to compensate those who suffered injuries from a drug that made the company billions of dollars and has caused irreparable harm to innocent patients.