

# IBS Treatment Center Newsletter

1229 Madison Street, Suite 1220, Seattle, Washington 98104 (206) 264-1111 [www.IBSTreatmentCenter.com](http://www.IBSTreatmentCenter.com)



## ***Special Alert: Zelnorm (Tegaserod) Has Been Removed From the Market***

This past weekend the Los Angeles Times reported that Zelnorm (tegaserod), a commonly used drug for severe constipation, has been taken off the market due to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

The FDA reviewed 29 studies of the drug, which included more than 18,000 patients. It found that those taking Zelnorm had a significantly increased number of heart attacks and strokes than those taking a placebo sugar pill. In light of this the FDA requested that Novartis, the maker of Zelnorm, voluntarily remove its product from the market.

Novartis complied, but not before claiming that its own consultant had reviewed the data and come to a very different conclusion. Novartis stated that the drug was not to blame and that the rate of heart problems in the studies was not different than in the normal population.

This latest discovery came after a request in 2004 by Swiss regulators for a more meticulous investigation after concerns about Zelnorm had already been noted.

The Los Angeles Times quoted Peter Lurie,

deputy director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group, who said his calculations indicate that those taking Zelnorm would face a seven- to eight-fold higher risk of cardiac problems.

"When you remember that a number of patients taking this drug are younger, otherwise healthy people, the tolerance for serious side effects should be very low, even if they are rare," said Laurie.

Revenue from the sale of Zelnorm last year was nearly \$490 million, making it one of the top 200 brand-name medications prescribed, with more than 2.6 million prescriptions written.

## **Please Let People Know That There Is Help!**

Following word that Zelnorm had been removed from the market there was an outcry from people who are not aware that there are better answers than Zelnorm. Hundreds of thousands of people have no idea that they can find the cause of their problem. They rely on drugs like Zelnorm to get them through the day.

### **What can you do?**

Please write a short note *today* about your experience with the IBS Treatment Center and email it to one of the local news sources below or to your local newspaper. You can spread the word that this problem can be cured, that there is hope, and that people with IBS can get their life

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back. It will only take a couple of minutes, and you could end up helping many people. Simply cut and paste these email addresses into your email address box:

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## **IBS Treatment Center Provides Alternatives for Zelnorm Patients**

*The FDA withdrawal of Zelnorm has caused concern for thousands.*

The IBS Treatment Center has discovered an alternative for Zelnorm users that may prove to be far more successful than Zelnorm and does not have any side effects.

The removal of Zelnorm, a popular medication for treating irritable bowel syndrome, from the market has left thousands of patients feeling helpless. It was removed due an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, two unacceptable side effects of the drug.

“Recent medical research indicates that there are a number of significant causes of IBS. However, it takes time and specialized expertise to sort out these causes. Most physicians do not have the time or the training to do this. It is much easier and more economical to prescribe a drug. As we now know, that can have unwanted consequences,” says Dr. Stephen Wangen, the Chief Medical Officer of the IBS Treatment Center.

Rather than prescribe medications such as Zelnorm, which was never meant for long-term use and does not cure IBS, the IBS Treatment Center helps people to identify the specific trigger for their problem. Once that trigger is known, the patient is able to completely avoid

getting IBS. The result is that they do not need any medication and will experience permanent relief from IBS.

The IBS Treatment Center, the first and only clinic in the nation specializing in the treatment of IBS, has had unprecedented success and sees patients from around the country. Physician and author Dr. Stephen Wangen founded this clinic for the sole purpose of treating and curing irritable bowel syndrome.

**For more information on the discontinuation of Zelnorm and reporting serious side effects visit the [FDA website](#)**

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