

Diabetes drug Actos tied to increased bladder cancer risk
June 15, 2011

The Food and Drug Administration has announced the use of the diabetes drug [Actos](#) for more than one year can increase a patient's risk of developing bladder cancer. The agency says that it will add a new warning about the link between Actos and bladder cancer to the drug's label later this year.

According to a five year study examining the side effects of Actos, patients who used the drug for over one year were 40% more likely to develop bladder cancer. Another study conducted in France found that Actos users were more likely to be diagnosed with bladder cancer compared to those who were treated with other drugs.

Health officials in France and Germany stopped sales of Actos in their countries due to evidence linking it to an increased bladder cancer risk. Officials in the US have not announced any plans to issue an Actos recall.

The FDA has advised patients who develop potential signs of bladder cancer after taking Actos—including blood in the urine, increased urgency to go to the bathroom, pain while urinating, back pain or abdominal pain to tell their doctor right away.