



**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PATIENTS FROM THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY ON
LANTUS® (INSULIN GLARGINE) AND CANCER
July 2, 2009**

Recently, you may have heard news reports about an article in the medical journal *Diabetologia* that reported a possible connection between the use of Lantus® (insulin glargine) and the development of cancer. The conclusion of this study performed in Germany, which was based on a complicated mathematical prediction, suggested that the risk of cancer could be 9-31% higher (depending on the insulin dosage) in patients using insulin glargine than in those using other types of insulin. This same study, however, also showed that overall death rate was lower with insulin glargine.

Four other studies of this same question, done on different groups of patients, did not come to the same conclusion as the German study. Taken together, the results of all of these studies do not show conclusively that insulin glargine causes cancer or is otherwise harmful to a patient's overall health.

The Endocrine Society and The Hormone Foundation, the public education affiliate of The Endocrine Society, recommend that patients continue with their current insulin therapy until they have discussed with their physicians the reasons why a particular insulin treatment was prescribed. In addition, patients with diabetes, like all other individuals, should make sure that they follow recommended procedures for screening and early detection of cancer, such as periodic mammography and colonoscopy, and they avoid actions that are known to be associated with cancer, such as smoking.

The Endocrine Society and The Hormone Foundation anticipate that as medical experts continue to examine in detail and analyze all of this new information about possible cancer risk of insulin glargine, and as they perform new studies to explore this question, the potential risks and benefits of insulin glargine will become more clearly defined.

For more information about diabetes and to find an endocrinologist who specializes in diabetes, please visit our "Find-an-Endocrinologist" physician referral directory at www.hormone.org.