

**Following an article in Newsday on September 17,  
GSK responded with the following letter to the Health Editor**

Dear Health Editor:

Your September 17 article on Avandia correctly states that there are both benefits and risk associated with taking any medication. However, the story inaccurately states that “studies reported last week confirm earlier [studies] demonstrating...Avandia raises the likelihood of heart attack and stroke.”

The study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) comes from a re-analyses of previously published and highly selective data from only four of 116 available studies. This analysis does not suggest Avandia leads to an increase in stroke. In fact, data show a strong trend towards a decreased risk of stroke with Avandia in diabetic patients.

The selective review in JAMA of a handful of studies stands in direct contrast to the extensive body of clinical and real-world observational evidence that shows Avandia is safe and effective when used appropriately. In fact, the cardiovascular safety of Avandia is comparable to the most widely prescribed oral anti-diabetes medications currently available to patients, apart from the risk of heart failure known to the class of medicines to which Avandia and Actos® (pioglitazone) belong. The comprehensive review of these data by two FDA committees resulted in a resounding 22-1 vote recommending that patients continue to have access to Avandia to treat their disease.

Type 2 diabetes is an extremely complex and difficult condition to treat, and many patients need more than one safe and effective treatment to maintain control of their blood sugar. Attempting to limit those options—despite the evidence demonstrating Avandia’s safety and effectiveness — does a disservice to the millions of Americans struggling with this disease.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald Krall  
Chief Medical Officer  
GlaxoSmithKline