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### Drug Injury Watch

Prescription Drug Side Effects News and Information from Attorney Tom Lamb

## Do Enbrel, Humira, Or Remicade Cause Cancer In Children And Young Adults?

Wednesday, June 04, 2008

### FDA Will Conduct A Safety Review Of These TNF Blockers To Investigate This Possible Link

(Posted by Tom Lamb at [DrugInjuryWatch.com](#))

On June 4, 2008 the FDA issued an "Early Communication About n Ongoing Safety Review of Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) Blockers" announcing that the agency has started an investigation into the potential link between certain TNF blockers used to treat Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), Crohn's disease, or other diseases and the development of lymphoma as well as other cancers in children and young adults.

According to this June 4 article, "[FDA Investigates Link Between TNF Blockers and Pediatric Cancer](#)", published online by *Medscape Medical News*:

Approximately 30 cases of cancer have been reported during



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a 10-year period extending through April 2008, occurring in pediatric patients receiving TNF blockers with other immunosuppressive therapies to treat juvenile idiopathic arthritis, Crohn's disease, or other conditions. About half of the cancers were Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas; leukemia, melanoma, and solid organ malignancies were also reported, the agency said.

TNF blockers currently approved for pediatric use include etanercept (Enbrel, Immunex Corp, marketed by Amgen and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals), adalimumab (Humira, Abbott Laboratories), and infliximab (Remicade, Centocor, Inc). Makers of these products have been asked to supply the FDA with information regarding cancer cases in children receiving treatment....

As part of the 6-month review process, the agency has also contacted medical experts to assess the potential link between TNF blockers and cancer and also whether some children may be at particular risk for malignancy.

After this FDA safety review of Enbrel, Humira, and Remicade is complete, and the agency has reported its findings, we will let you know if there are any resulting recommendations to doctors and patients.

As with all serious side effects from prescription drugs, any adverse events related to the use of Enbrel (etanercept), Humira (adalimumab), or Remicade (infliximab) should be reported to the FDA's MedWatch reporting program by telephone at 1-800-FDA-1088, by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, online at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch>, or by mail to 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787.

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