<u>Drug Injury Watch: Benicar (Olmesartan) Associated With Sprue-Like Enteropathy, Which Is A Chronic / Severe Diarrhea</u> Condition That Can Be Misdiagnosed As Celiac Disease

This Diarrhea With Weight Loss Is Also A Side Effect Of Benicar HCT, Azor, And Tribenzor -- Other Blood Pressure Medicines Containing Olmesartan

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.DruglnjuryWatch.com on May 14, 2014)

SUMMARY: The most recent medical article we have seen regarding the serious side effect sprue-like enteropathy and the oral angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) Benicar, Benicar HCT, Azor, and Tribenzor is "A Review of Current Evidence of Olmesartan Medoxomil Mimicking Symptoms of Celiac Disease", published online by the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice* in late March 2014.

As pointed out by the FDA in July 2013 when it issued this MedWatch alert, "FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA approves label changes to include intestinal problems (sprue-like enteropathy) linked to blood pressure medicine olmesartan medoxomil", severe and chronic diarrhea with substantial weight loss has been reported in patients taking Benicar and the other related drugs months to years after they first started using these blood pressure pills.

Of course, we are continuing to monitor this drug safety issue concerning Benicar, Benicar HCT, Azor, and Tribenzor.

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Earlier articles by attorney Tom Lamb on the Side Effects Blog:

- <u>Viagra May Increase Risk Of Melanoma In Men Who Have Used This ED Drug,</u>
 According To An April 2014 Medical Journal Article
- The Benefits And Risks Of Popular Testosterone Replacement Therapy For Older Men Are Not Fully Known
- Possible Link Between Heart Failure And Onglyza Diabetes Type 2 Drug Is Being Investigated By FDA, As Announced In February 2014
- <u>Like Depakote, Stavzor Can Cause Liver Failure, Usually During First 6 Months; Children Under Age 2 Are At A Higher Risk, As Are Patients with Mitochondrial Disease</u>
- Serious Nerve Damage Side Effect Peripheral Neuropathy Associated With Levaquin,
 Cipro, And Avelox May Be A Permanent Drug Injury