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The type II diabetes drug Actos has been linked to an increased risk of serious and potentially fatal side effects, including bladder cancer and heart failure. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued multiple warnings about the risk of Actos side effects faced by patients who take this drug.

In 2007, an FDA review of data concerning the side effects of Actos prompted the agency to warn that Actos may cause or worsen heart failure in patients who are taking the drug. As a result of these findings, the FDA added a black box warning to the Actos label about the heart failure risk associated with taking the drug.

According to a June 2011 warning by the FDA, patients who take Actos for more than one year may face an increased risk of developing bladder cancer compared to non-users. The agency also warned that patients who are prescribed the highest dose of Actos may face an increased bladder cancer risk.

The FDA's Actos bladder cancer warning was based on the results of a multi-year study conducted in France that examined the side effects risk of several diabetes medications, including Actos. Based on the study's findings, health officials in France and Germany suspended sales of Actos in those countries.

If you or a loved one took Actos and were diagnosed with bladder cancer or other side effects, you may be eligible to file a lawsuit. For a free legal consultation, contact the law firm of Hissey Kientz, LLP by calling toll-free at 1-866-275-4454, or by filling out a free case evaluation form.