

"Protecting Your Rights"

JAMES F. HUMPHREYS

& ASSOCIATES L.C.

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HEALTH ALERT: MESOTHELIOMA AND LUNG CANCER

Diagnosing the risks of occupational and household exposures

Mesothelioma is an aggressive form of cancer caused by a previous exposure to the mineral fiber, asbestos, which has been used in over 3,000 types of products. Individuals who worked at industrial and construction sites, on Naval ships, and on boilers were commonly exposed to asbestos. If asbestos fibers remain undisturbed, they are not harmful to people. However, many people who performed jobs in these environments may have disrupted this toxic material, and at the direction of their employers. For example, asbestos fibers are often disturbed by cutting and/or installing products containing the hazardous fibers, such as pipe insulation, gasket or packing materials, brake materials, etc. People may also experience exposure to asbestos dust by wearing or handling clothing or gloves made with asbestos fibers, or simply being in an area where employees are working with asbestos-containing products, and then inhaling the airborne fibers. Many employers, suppliers and manufacturers knew that asbestos-containing products were harmful, if not deadly. Unfortunately, many men and women's lives could have been saved, and many hard working Americans could have remained unharmed if employers, work site owners, manufacturers and suppliers of asbestos-containing materials would have protected employees from the associated risks. These companies could have and should have offered preventative measures to reduce or possibly eliminate workers'

exposure to asbestos dust, and they should have warned workers that exposure to asbestos dust can cause cancer and asbestosis.

If you or a loved one were diagnosed with mesothelioma or lung cancer, please contact our office immediately at 1-800-442-1161 (if you have not already contacted us about your mesothelioma or cancer). Also, if you are contacted by another attorney regarding your work site and the possibility of exposure to asbestos-containing materials, please **notify** our law firm immediately. It is in your best interest to refrain from discussing your situation with other attorneys, as it may negatively impact your personal case and the settlements that you could receive in the future. In addition, discussing the details of your case with outside counsel could force you to waive certain attorney-client privileges. If such conversations have already occurred, please call our firm as soon as possible so that we can determine what impact such discussions will have on your case. For more information, please call 1-800-442-1161 and ask to speak with Cindy Kiblinger.

RESOURCES

www.jfhumphreystv.com

www.jfhumphreys.com

www.aduk.org.uk/help_and_info.php • www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asbestosis

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PHARMACEUTICAL WATCH

ORTHO EVRA

Ortho Evra is a contraceptive patch that is placed on a woman's skin. It is directed that a new birth control patch be placed on the body each week. Proponents of Ortho Evra state that the patch offers "the same efficacy as the Pill with even greater simplicity." However, studies suggest that women who use Ortho Evra are at an increased risk for fatal blood clots compared to women taking birth control pills. In November of 2005, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") issued a black box warning for the Ortho Evra birth control patch, which was updated in 2008 to include supplementary information on the risks of venous thromboembolism.

Serious Side-Effects

If you or a loved one took Ortho Evra on a regular basis and suffered from a heart attack, stroke, blood clots, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, or death, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.

TRASYLLOL

Trasylol is a medication approved by the FDA in 1999 to help control blood loss in patients undergoing open heart surgery. Studies show that Trasylol increases the risk of kidney failure following heart surgery. On November 5, 2007, at the request of the FDA, Bayer suspended global marketing of Trasylol. Many patients who were given Trasylol during open heart surgery are unaware they received the drug. Thus, medical records need to be reviewed to see if Trasylol was administered.

Serious Side-Effects

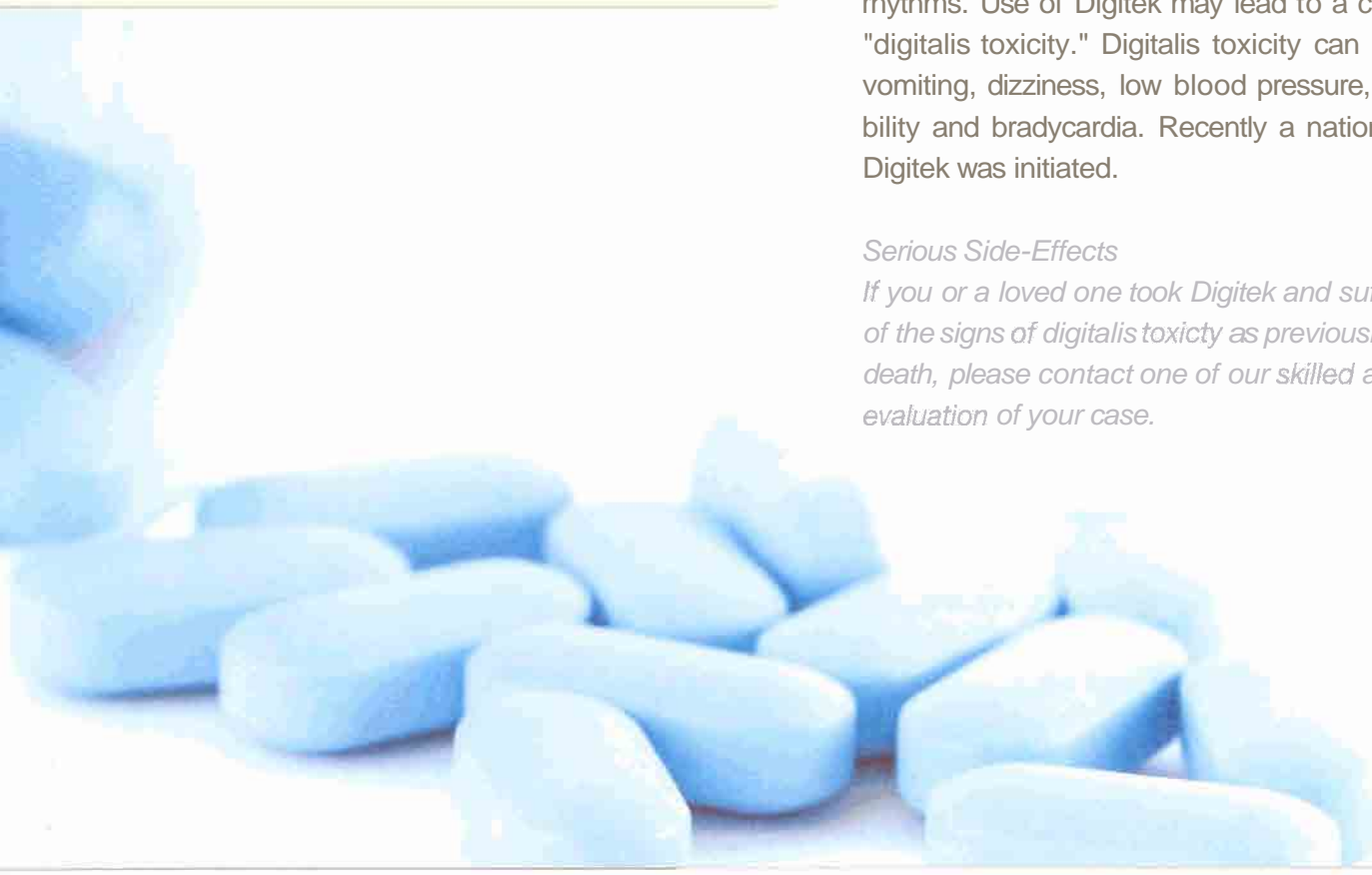
If you or a loved one underwent open-heart surgery and had kidney problems (with or without dialysis) soon afterward, usually during the same hospitalization, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.

DIGITEK

Digitek is a drug commonly prescribed to treat patients who suffered from heart failure and/or abnormal heart rhythms. Use of Digitek may lead to a condition called "digitalis toxicity." Digitalis toxicity can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, cardiac instability and bradycardia. Recently a nationwide recall of Digitek was initiated.

Serious Side-Effects

If you or a loved one took Digitek and suffered from any of the signs of digitalis toxicity as previously described, or death, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.



PAXIL

Paxil is a SSRI (serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor) prescription drug used by millions of Americans to treat depression and a number of other disorders, including but not limited to, anxiety disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Recent studies suggest an increased link between Paxil use during pregnancy and severe birth defects which include the following:

1. Congenital Heart Defect

Most of the heart defects reported in these studies are either atrial **septal** defects or ventricular **septal** defects (holes in the walls of the chambers of the heart). Generally speaking these defects range in severity from ones that resolve by themselves to others that require surgical intervention.

2. Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn

A recent New England Journal of Medicine study released results showing that PPHN was six-times more common in infants whose mothers took SSRI antidepressant during pregnancy compared to babies whose mothers did not take an antidepressant.

3. Abdominal & Cranial Birth Defects

Studies suggest that there may be a causal link between two separate congenital (present at birth) abnormalities called Omphalocele and Craniosynostosis. Omphalocele is a congenital abdominal wall defect at the base of the umbilical cord; the infant is born with a sac protruding through the defect which contains the small intestine, liver and large intestine. In turn, Craniosynostosis is a congenital defect that causes one or more sutures on a baby's head to close earlier than normal, resulting in an abnormally shaped head.

Serious Side-Effects

If you or a loved one took Paxil on a regular basis during any part of your pregnancy and have a child who suffers from birth defects as described above, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.

ZETIA & VYTORIN

Zetia and Vytorin are cholesterol-reducing drugs whose efficacy and risk of serious life-threatening side effects were brought into question. Studies suggest that these drugs show no significant benefit in slowing plaque build-up and that use of these drugs results in an elevated risk of potential liver damage.

Serious Side-Effects

If you or a loved one took Zetia and/or Vytorin and suffered from a heart attack, stroke, myalgia, hepatitis, thrombocytopenia, pancreatitis, rhabdomyolysis or any liver related injury or damage or death, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.

KETEK

Ketek, generically telithromycin, is a popular antibiotic drug. Use of Ketek may lead to liver damage and death. On February 12, 2007, the FDA banned the use of Ketek for sinusitis and bronchitis.

Serious Side-Effects

If you or a loved one took Ketek and suffered from a serious liver injury, liver failure or death, please contact one of our skilled attorneys for an evaluation of your case.



TOXIC TORT FOCUS: BENZENE

The hidden dangers of a common chemical

Benzene (or benzol) is an organic, chemical compound that is colorless, highly flammable, and perfumed with a strong, sweet scent. Benzene is also a carcinogen (a cancer-causing substance). Benzene poses the greatest risk to workers who used petroleum solvents containing benzene (also commonly referred to as “mineral spirits” or “toluene”). Exposure to high levels of benzene can cause nervous system disorders, immune system depression, and anemia. Ongoing benzene exposure — by breath or through skin — can also cause various forms of leukemia and a myriad of other health concerns, including respiratory problems, life-threatening infections, and death.

The greatest population of benzene-related cancer victims were exposed to benzene at work. Workers who are at risk for developing a disease related to benzene exposure often worked on a daily basis with solvents in the following industries: newspaper press, paint, chemicals, parts cleaning. In any industry, refinery work, shoe and leather production, paper and pulp manufacturing, gasoline distribution, or rubber and pesticides.

Benzene exposure can cause non-specific ailments that are symptomatic of flu-like conditions. Also, the diseases that benzene exposure — are often latent diseases (which means they do not develop until decades after the exposure to benzene occurred). Thus, the negative effects of prolonged exposure to benzene may be misdiagnosed or overlooked for years.

BENZENE HEALTH HAZARDS

Certain levels of benzene exposure are reported to cause the following health effects:

- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Rapid heart rate
- Headaches
- Vomiting or stomach irritation
- Tremors or convulsions
- Mental confusion
- Unconsciousness
- Death (at extremely high levels)

BENZENE *continued*

While low levels of benzene exposure can cause drowsiness, dizziness, rapid heart rate, headaches, tremors, confusion, and unconsciousness; long term benzene exposure can impact bone marrow and blood production.

Chemical and manufacturing companies knew about benzene's dangers for many decades, yet they failed to adequately warn or protect workers. If you or a loved one were exposed to benzene and suffer from medical problems as a result of your benzene exposure, you may be entitled to compensation for your treatment costs and your pain and suffering. Contact our office for a free initial evaluation of your claims.

BENZENE BASICS

A colorless, flammable, and aromatic hydrocarbon ("C6H6")

- Derived from petroleum and used in or to manufacture a wide variety of chemical products
- Commercial products containing benzene include motor fuels, paint, dry cleaning solvents, and explosives
- The toxic effects of benzene exposure can be discovered decades after the first contact

*Please contact us with any questions you have.
Call toll free at 800.442.1161*