

## ZYPREXA NEWS



APRIL 2004

### **"Zyprexa lawsuits consolidated for pretrial"**

Eli Lilly and Company requested a judicial panel consolidate the large, and still growing, number of Zyprexa lawsuits in Indiana. The request was denied but about two-dozen federal cases around the country, in addition to future cases, will be consolidated for pretrial purposes in New York. Zyprexa patients allege the schizophrenia can cause very serious side effects, including diabetes. Some believe Zyprexa lawsuits could result in one of the largest class actions.

MARCH 2004

### **" Fifteen Zyprexa lawsuits in response to diabetes links"**

Eli Lilly and Co. has been named in about 15 Zyprexa lawsuits in the U.S. after links to diabetes have been made. Last year, Lilly added Zyprexa warnings to its labeling regarding weight gain and the links made to diabetes. The drug company has responded to the Zyprexa lawsuits by saying it would request a federal court to consolidate them into one case.

### **FDA issues limited Zyprexa warning information**

In November 2001, the Journal of the American Medical Association medical officers from the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and a Duke University Medical Center physician first reported a possible link between Zyprexa and hyperglycemia in adolescents. Other FDA staff members then published a report in a December 2001 American Journal of Medicine linking Zyprexa to diabetes. Both Zyprexa reports used information from the FDA's adverse drug reaction database.

The FDA has identified at least 384 reports of diabetes because of Zyprexa use, with the majority of cases appearing with six months of the start date. The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, as well as the British medical equivalent to the FDA received reports of serious hyperglycemia and diabetes amongst Zyprexa patients and issued warnings accordingly. In the U.S., no such action was taken to warn physicians and patients of Zyprexa risks. The FDA Zyprexa risk of diabetes and hyperglycemia brief reference is "buried deep in the adverse reactions section of the drug's labeling" according to the Public Citizen consumer group. The group's advice to Zyprexa patients is to follow the advice given from the Japanese drug regulatory authorities.

