

## FDA Drug Recalls Epidemic. Re: Weight loss pill praised as “holy grail” is withdrawn from US market over cancer link

On 13 February 2020, the FDA requested the withdraw from the U.S. market place a drug used for obesity – lorcaserin (Belviq) – due to concerns over an increased prevalence of cancer.

The FDA states its mission as: “The FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and by ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.” [1].

Our efforts to bring to the attention of the FDA, misinformation provided by a major pharmaceutical company, was completely ignored after the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) reported the pharmaceutical company had declared to the FDA that the drug redistributed - while marketing the drug to doctors and hospitals as a drug which did not redistribute; a difference which was associated with tens of billions of increased sales of the drug, 3-million extra curies of radiation exposure and countless deaths [1].

According to Forbes Magazine [2] the FDA approved a record number of 59 new drug therapies in 2018, up from 46 in 2017 [3]. We are aware of no drugs submitted to the FDA by BigPharma, which have ever been denied FDA approval. Since 5 October 2017, The FDA has recalled 234 drugs it had approved [4].

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**Richard M Fleming**

Physicist-Cardiologist

Tapan K. Chaudhuri, MD (Eastern Virginia Medical School)

FHHI-OI-Camelot

Los Angeles, CA

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Clearly whatever process, criteria, methods, protocols or verification is occurring at the FDA and CDER, something is amiss. Either there is some degree of incompetency or collusion between the FDA, CDER and BigPharma, or both. Either way, the problem with drug recall has now become an epidemic; raising alarming concerns as to whether doctors and their patients can trust the FDA and CDER to do their job.

### References:

1. Fleming RM, Chaudhuri TK, McKusick A. The FDA, HHS, Sestamibi Redistribution and Quantification. Acta Scientific Pharmaceutical Sciences 2019;3(5):47-69. ISSN:2581-5423.
2. Can the Record Breaking Number of FDA New Drug Approvals Continue? By John LaMattina <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnlamattina/2019/01/09/can-the-record-bre...>
3. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Advancing Health Through Innovation 2017 New Drug Approvals. Janet Woodcock, MD, Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. January 2018. [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)
4. U.S. Food & Drug Administration Website – Drug Recalls. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/drug-recalls>

**Competing interests:** We have previously reported to the FDA and CDER misinformation provided by BigPharma, which was associated with tens of billions of increased sales of the drug, 3-million extra curies of radiation exposure and countless deaths