



## NHS Tayside Diabetes Managed Clinical Network Patient Information Leaflet

### Cancer Risk and Insulin Glargine

A recent study examining cancer risk in patients (mainly) with Type 2 diabetes treated with insulin has raised some concerns over the use of insulin glargine, more commonly known as Lantus. Reassuringly a number of other studies, including a large study undertaken by the Scottish Diabetes Research Network Epidemiology Group, have not confirmed these findings and suggest that there is no overall increased risk of cancer associated with taking insulin glargine.

In particular there was no evidence for increased cancer risk in patients with Type 1 diabetes, in whom insulin glargine is most commonly prescribed.

A small excess of cases of breast cancer was found in a small subset of patients taking just one injection of insulin per day, but this is likely to reflect differences in the health of patients selected for once daily long acting insulin rather than being caused by the glargine itself.

Data analysis is ongoing and European Medicines Agency (EMA) guidance awaited, but currently there is no convincing evidence to justify cessation of insulin glargine.

**It is important that patients taking insulin glargine should not stop taking their insulin, but should discuss any concerns with their doctor.**

For more information see:

Scottish Diabetes Research Network (SDRN)

<http://www.sdrn.org.uk/?q=node/67>

European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)

<http://webcast.easd.org/press/glargine/download/patientinfo.pdf>

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)

<http://www.jdrf.org.uk/news.asp?itemid=1013&itemTitle=Insulin+analogues+and+cancer&section=23&sectionTitle=News>

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