

Susan Cruzan Festschrift

Roche has talked with FDA, and now they will cease to sell POSICOR® (mibefradil).

In June of last year, FDA said that Roche could sell
5 POSICOR, for folks with chest pain that came from their hearts and for folks whose blood pushed too hard on the walls of the tubes in which the blood runs.

Mibefradil makes it hard for folks to get rid of some drugs (that is, to get those drugs out of their blood), so the
10 drugs mount up in their blood. When this takes place, folks may get sick or die. There are drugs like mibefradil (that is, drugs that change how we get rid of drugs), but none of these drugs like mibefradil is meant to be used like mibefradil.

15 From the day when mibefradil was first sold, it came with a sheet that told how mibefradil makes it hard for folks to get rid of some drugs. The sheet warned folks not to use astemizole, cisapride, or terfenadine if they took mibefradil too. In the next few months, FDA and Roche learned of
20 some folks who got sick or died when they got POSICOR and some drug that they took at the same time that they took POSICOR. Late last year, the sheet that comes with POSICOR was changed, and lovastatin and simvastatin were put on the sheet's list of drugs that should not be used with
25 mibefradil.

FDA and Roche still hear from time to time of folks who get sick or die when they take mibefradil with some drugs that they chance to take with mibefradil, and that, since they take mibefradil, they can not get rid of as they should.

30 Since there are lots of such drugs, some folks may not heed
the long sheet from Roche (the sheet that comes with the
drugs), and they may well take both mibefradil and one (or
more) of these drugs that, with mibefradil on board, can not
be got rid of. This risk might be all right if mibefradil were
35 known to do more good or if it were known that folks liked
mibefradil more than the drugs now sold for the same use,
but no such facts are known.