

Blood Pressure Medication Recall it May Cause Cancer



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Do you have an idea of what is in these blood pressure medications? Take away the "I" from an idea and you've got a NDEA. That's the chemical that seems to have contaminated certain lots of irbesartan, a type of blood pressure medication.

NDEA is short for N-nitrosodiethylamine. [PubChem describes NDEA](#) as a "synthetic light-sensitive, volatile, clear yellow oil that is soluble in water, lipids, and other organic solvents," which is "used as gasoline and lubricant additive, antioxidant, and stabilizer for industry materials." The description also mentions NDEA as emitting "toxic fumes" when heated to a high enough temperature and being used in the lab to cause liver tumors for experiments. Then, there is this sentence: "it is considered to be reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." Yes, this last sentence is not written in the most definitive manner. Imagine telling your significant other, "you are considered to be reasonably anticipated to be the love of my life." Nonetheless, it is safe to say that there are cancer-causing concerns about NDEA.

Apparently, trace amounts of NDEA have appeared in irbesartan tablets sold by Sciegen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. NDEA is not normally supposed to be part of such medications. So trace amounts would be contamination or an impurity. This impurity has prompted the company to voluntarily recalling specific lots of irbesartan tablets (USP 75 mg, 150 mg, and 300 mg dosage forms), [according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#).

Renin-angiotensin system

