

Rosiglitazone withdrawn: PCDS response

PCDS

Primary Care Diabetes Society

PCDS notes the Europe-wide withdrawal of rosiglitazone in all formulations (Avandia® and Avandamet® in the UK). Prescribers should no longer prescribe rosiglitazone in any formulation either as an acute item or as a repeat prescription. PCDS suggests that rosiglitazone prescriptions be changed at the earliest time convenient to the person with type 2 diabetes, but preferably within the next 2 months.

For people with well-controlled diabetes and without evident heart failure or significant risk of fracture, a direct switch to pioglitazone (Actos®) – 4 mg rosiglitazone to 30 mg pioglitazone, or 8 mg rosiglitazone to 45 mg pioglitazone – would be appropriate. There are three formulations of the combination product Avandamet®: 2 mg rosiglitazone with either 500 mg or 1 g metformin, and 4 mg rosiglitazone with 1 g metformin. There is, however, only one preparation of pioglitazone with metformin

(Competact®): 15 mg pioglitazone with 850 mg metformin. *Table 1* gives some advice on changing Avandamet® to Competact® in those people whose type 2 diabetes is well controlled and without contraindications to the use of a thiazolidinedione (TZD). Please remember that such a change of medication has the potential to increase the risk of hypoglycaemic episodes.

For those not well controlled with TZDs, or with relative contraindications to TZDs, this time should be used as an opportunity to review overall care and consider other therapeutic options in accordance with the NICE guidelines (National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions, 2008). ■

National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions (2008) *Type 2 Diabetes: National Clinical Guideline for Management in Primary and Secondary Care (Update)*. NICE Clinical Guideline 66. Royal College of Physicians, London

Table 1. Changing therapy from Avandamet® to Competact®.

Rosiglitazone combination products	Pioglitazone combination products
Avandamet® (2 mg rosiglitazone + metformin 500 mg) twice daily.	Competact® (15 mg pioglitazone + metformin 850 mg) twice daily. Note: some people may have difficulty tolerating 1700 mg metformin. If this is the case, use Competact® once daily or prescribe pioglitazone and metformin separately.
Avandamet® (2 mg rosiglitazone + metformin 1 g) twice daily.	Competact® (15 mg pioglitazone + metformin 850 mg) twice daily.
Avandamet® (4 mg rosiglitazone + metformin 1 g) twice daily.	Competact® (15 mg pioglitazone + metformin) twice daily + pioglitazone 15 mg.

Primary Care Diabetes Society Committee.