

# **SUTURES**

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Department of Surgery  
Edition: September 29, 2009

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- CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND



## **Sitagliptin (marketed as Januvia and Janumet) - acute pancreatitis**

FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of revisions to the prescribing information for Januvia (sitagliptin) and Janumet (sitagliptin/metformin) to include information on reported cases of acute pancreatitis in patients using these products. Eighty-eight post-marketing cases of acute pancreatitis, including two cases of hemorrhagic or necrotizing pancreatitis in patients using sitagliptin, were reported to the Agency between October 2006 and February 2009. It is recommended that healthcare professionals monitor patients carefully for the development of pancreatitis after initiation or dose increases of sitagliptin or sitagliptin/metformin. Sitagliptin has not been studied in patients with a history of pancreatitis. Therefore, it is not known whether these patients are at an increased risk for developing pancreatitis and the medication should be used with caution and with appropriate monitoring in patients with a history of pancreatitis. Considerations for healthcare professionals, information for patients, and a Data Summary are provided.

Read the complete MedWatch 2009 Safety summary including a link to the Information for Healthcare Professionals sheet, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm183800.htm>



## **CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND**

### Calendar

Surgery Grand Rounds

Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 am in ECC A/B

*“Comprehensive Management of Lateral Skull Base Lesions”* by Rick Friedman, MD

### Publications

Significant media attention has been received for the paper *“Positive Serum Ethanol Level and Mortality in Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury”* published in September’s edition of the Archives of Surgery (Authors: Ali Salim, MD; Eric Ley, MD; H. Gill Cryer, MD; Daniel Margulies, MD; Emily Ramicone, MS; and Areti Tillou, MD). Articles have appeared in such news outlets as the New York Times ([http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/22/health/research/22patt.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/22/health/research/22patt.html?_r=1)), BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8262393.stm>) and Med Page Today (<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Neurology/HeadTrauma/16065>).

### Acknowledgments

I am pleased to announce the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Breast Preservation Foundation, a non profit initiated to promote skin sparing mastectomy education to the medical community and the public in order to lessen the unnecessary use of standard transverse mastectomy procedures. The Breast Preservation Foundation activities over the past year have included professional teaching at the annual Oncoplastic College in Dallas, networking with Komen and other breast cancer advocacy groups, meeting with JAHCO Chairman Mark Chaissons regarding SSM as a quality of care benchmark, and lobbying in Washington during the markup of the Health Care Omnibus Bill in June this year.

A heartfelt thanks to all of those in the Department of Surgery who have helped in this worthy effort.

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Items for submission to Sutures may be sent to Meg Jenkins at [jenkinsml@cshs.org](mailto:jenkinsml@cshs.org)

The next SUTURES will be Tuesday, October 13th, 2009.