

## REGLAN SIDE EFFECTS

Reglan (metoclopramide) is a prescription medication used to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in infants and adults and has been linked to Tardive Dyskinesia and Neuroepileptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS.)

**Tardive Dyskinesia** is a neurological disorder that consists of potentially irreversible, involuntary movements of the tongue, mouth, face, lips, and sometimes the arms, legs, and trunk. Both the risk of developing Tardive Dyskinesia and the likelihood that it will become irreversible are believed to increase with the duration of Reglan use and the total cumulative dose. In early 2009, the FDA announced that manufacturers of Reglan must add a black box warning to their drug labels to warn about the risks associated with its long-term or high-dose use. The FDA approved Reglan in 1995 for short-term use, generally 4 to 12 weeks. However, one third of patients taking Reglan and the generic form, metoclopramide, are doing so for periods of 12 months or longer. Of these long-term users, there is a prevalence of Tardive Dyskinesia in 27 to 29 percent of these patients.

**Neuroepileptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS)** is a neurological disorder that has been associated with this drug. This disorder presents in a patient with symptoms such as muscle rigidity, fever, autonomic instability and cognitive changes such as delirium, and is associated with elevated creatine phosphokinase (CPK). Treatment is generally supportive and when the symptoms occur and the disorder is diagnosed, it is considered an emergency requiring immediate treatment to avoid fatal outcome. Kidney damage can occur due to the high CPK levels that occur in this syndrome.

If you or a loved one or other close individual have been affected by the side effects of Reglan, contact my office for a FREE consultation either through the website Contact Form, via phone (267) 241-2475 or Skype™ (Roseann E. Weisblatt).

