

SPINE SAFETY CAUTIONARY NOTICE:

Information for Healthcare Professionals:

Diovan (valsartan) tablets:

Labeling Changes

According to MedWatch, FDA notified healthcare professionals of labeling changes for Diovan (valsartan) tablets. The following has been added to the labeling:

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agents including Selective Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibitors (COX-2 Inhibitors)

- In patients who are elderly, volume-depleted (including those on diuretic therapy), or with compromised renal function, co-administration of NSAIDs, including selective COX-2 inhibitors with angiotensin II receptor antagonists, including valsartan, may result in deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure. These effects are usually reversible. Monitor renal function periodically in patients receiving valsartan and NSAID therapy.
- The antihypertensive effect of angiotensin II receptor antagonists, including valsartan may be attenuated by NSAIDs including selective COX-2 inhibitors.

PATIENT INFORMATION

What should I tell my doctor before taking Diovan

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (like ibuprofen or naproxen)

The North American Spine Society is committed to quality patient care through promotion of patient safety and prevention of medical errors. NASS monitors a variety of government and other resources for patient safety related notices that may be useful to our members.

Information from these notices is also archived on the NASS website at

<http://www.spine.org/Pages/PracticePolicy/ClinicalCare/SpineSafetyAlerts/Default.aspx>. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.