

13658 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

2. Emphasis should be placed on dietary management rather than oral agents in the instruction of medical students and in postgraduate medical courses on the treatment of diabetes.
3. Research should be undertaken on developing improved methods of assuring patient compliance and success in adhering to weight-reducing diets.
4. Most importantly, the labeling of oral hypoglycemics should be changed to include:
 - a. A warning that evidence has been reported that these agents may increase cardiovascular mortality; and
 - b. That use of these agents should be restricted to adult-onset diabetics in whom dietary measures have failed and insulin is refused or impractical.

Mr. Chairman, there has been much discussion in the lay press and medical journals of the need to maintain the physician's freedom of choice in the treatment of his or her patients. I believe that our overriding concern as physicians is to do no harm. As experts in the field of diabetes our primary obligation should be to improve the lot of our patients by influencing current treatment practices rather than perpetuating a situation which is at the least wasteful and at worst causing an unnecessary shortening of life span in adult-onset diabetics.