

13694 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before this Committee. My comments will be divided into two parts.

How is it that able and respected clinicians can disagree with the interpretation of the UGDP data? The tolbutamide cardiovascular death rate is more than double compared to other treatments. Yet many clinicians who treat adult onset diabetes find it difficult to accept such a figure. For many of them, this elevated cardiovascular death rate does not appear to have been perceived in the clinic.

Let us examine other factors which may lead to elevated cardiovascular mortality. According to the UGDP data, the cardiovascular death rate for individuals above the age of 53 is approximately five times that of individuals 53 or younger; people with arterial calcification at time of diagnosis have four times the cardiovascular death rate compared to those without arterial calcification; the initial glucose tolerance test (GTT), as used by the UGDP investigators, shows that those with a GTT above 723 (the median value) have double the rate of cardiovascular deaths compared to those who have a GTT below the median; men have a doubled cardiovascular death rate compared