

13700 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

4. The committee particularly analyzed the criticism that there were important differences in base-line cardiovascular variables among the groups and concluded that there was " * * * no evidence that the base-line differences arising from the randomization contributed in any important way to the finding of adverse effect from tolbutamide."
5. The criticism that oral hypoglycemic drugs were given in fixed dosage was not relevant to the question of whether the drugs were toxic.
6. Although the committee acknowledged that, "It would have been easier to interpret the findings if there were more data on mortality." [that is, if the study had been carried on longer], it did " * * * not criticize the UGDP investigators for having made the decision when they did." The committee further said: "Nevertheless, the result of that decision is to leave us with some residual uncertainty about the meaning of the findings, a point that is well understood by the UGDP investigators themselves."
7. Other studies said to contradict the findings of the UGDP study do not in fact do so.