

# Dangerous Drugs Defective Medical Devices

We welcome the opportunity  
to work with you.

**Berman & Simmons is currently handling  
the following types of cases:**

## **INFERIOR VENA CAVA (“IVC”) FILTER**

The IVC filter is implanted into the inferior vena cava for people at risk for blood clots who cannot tolerate anticoagulation medication during trauma-related surgery. IVC filters have been known to break apart into pieces, which can migrate to the heart and lung, puncturing organs and causing a number of injuries and complications. IVC filters were meant to be used as temporary devices, but many people do not have them removed. The longer an IVC filter remains in place, the greater the risks.

### **Injuries or complications**

- Perforation of vena cava or adjacent organs and vessels
- Fatal bleeding
- Paralysis
- Inability to retrieve device surgically

## **HERNIA MESH**

A hernia occurs when tissue squeezes through a weak spot in surrounding muscle. Composite meshes that use polypropylene or polyester material in combination with other materials are often used in patients to repair hernias. However, many patients whose doctors have used certain brands of composite meshes, such as Atrium, Johnson & Johnson, Bard, and Covidien, have experienced serious complications.

### **Injuries or complications**

- Mesh failure
- Migration
- Perforation into surrounding tissue
- Adhesion to bowels
- Infection

## **3M COMBAT ARMS™ EARPLUGS**

Service members who served in the military between 2003 and 2015 were likely supplied with Dual-Ended Combat Arms™ Earplugs (CAEv2). These earplugs were manufactured by 3M to help prevent hearing damage that can be caused by loud blasts from explosions and weapons fire. However, design and manufacturing defects rendered the earplugs largely ineffective for hearing protection.

### **Injuries or complications**

- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus (noise or ringing in the ears)

## **METAL-ON-METAL HIP**

A metal-on-metal hip implant consists of a metal ball (femoral head), a metal femoral stem, and a metal cup in the hip bone (acetabular component), all made from cobalt-chromium alloys. The metal ball and metal cup rub against each other when patients walk or run. The resulting friction can cause wear and corrosion, and metal debris may migrate into the patient's body.

### **Injuries or complications**

- Joint dislocations and hip fractures
- Metallosis (high levels of metal in the blood)
- Inflammation, pain, and swelling
- Necrosis
- Hip revision surgery

To refer a case or learn more,  
please contact us.

**207-784-3576**



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## TALCUM POWDER

Frequent and long-term use of talcum powder in the genital and perineal areas has been associated with increased risk of ovarian and mesothelioma cancer in women. Internal documents recently released from Johnson & Johnson show that the company's powder was sometimes tainted with asbestos. The company withheld this information from regulators and the public.

### Injuries or complications

- Ovarian cancer
- Mesothelioma

## SORIN STÖCKERT 3T HEATER-COOLER DEVICE

A Sorin Stöckert 3T heater-cooler device is commonly used to regulate body temperature during major heart, lung, and liver surgeries by warming or cooling blood that is being circulated by a heart-lung machine. Both the FDA and CDC have warned that these devices may have been contaminated during manufacturing, putting patients at risk for life threatening infections, specifically *Mycobacterium chimaera* (*M. chimaera*).

### Injuries or complications

- Infection
- Abscess
- Endocarditis (infection of the inner lining of the heart)
- Osteomyelitis (infection of the bone)
- Bacteremia (bacteria in the bloodstream)

## SLGT2 INHIBITOR

SLGT2 (sodium-glucose cotransporter-2) inhibitors are prescription medications such as Farxiga®, Invokana®, and Jardiance®, used to treat Type 2 diabetes by reducing the amount of glucose absorbed by the kidneys. According to FDA Adverse Event reports, use of SLGT2 inhibitors has been associated with patients developing diabetic ketoacidosis.

### Injuries or complications

- Diabetic ketoacidosis (too much acid in the blood)
- Kidney failure
- Severe urinary tract or kidney infections

## VALSARTAN

Valsartan is one of the world's most widely prescribed medications for the treatment of high blood pressure. It is effective for treating high blood pressure and heart failure, and for reducing the chance of cardiovascular mortality following a myocardial infarction. Unfortunately, a recent nationwide recall revealed that many batches of the drug already distributed and given to patients contained N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a known carcinogen.

### Injuries or complications

- Cancer of the digestive tracks, such as colorectal, stomach, liver, kidney, bladder, and pancreatic cancer

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Litigation involving dangerous prescription drugs and medical devices is always changing. Berman & Simmons keeps current with all major drug and medical device litigation. For the latest updates on cases involving dangerous drugs and medical devices, please visit [bermansimmons.com/masstort](http://bermansimmons.com/masstort).

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