



Anapol Schwartz | Attorneys at Law

# DIGITEK

## A BRAND OF DIGOXIN

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## WHAT IS DIGITEK?

Morristown, NJ, 25 April 2008 - Actavis Totowa LLC, a United States manufacturing division of the international generic pharmaceutical company Actavis Group, is initiating a Class 1 nationwide recall of Digitek (digoxin tablets, USP, all strengths) for oral use. The products are distributed by Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. under a "Bertek" label and by UDL Laboratories, Inc. under a "UDL" label.

The recall is based on the discovery that recently manufactured Digitek tablets contained twice the level of the active ingredient.

Digitek is a brand name of Digoxin (also known as Digitalis or Digitoxin) that is used to treat heart failure and abnormal heart rhythms. Digitalis therapy assists by helping the heart muscle beat and contract more efficiently.

## Digitalis Toxicity

Digitalis toxicity is a complication of digitalis therapy that can be caused by high levels of digitalis in the body or a decreased tolerance to the drug.

The existence of double-strength Digitek tablets poses a risk of digitalis toxicity in patients with renal failure. Reduced kidney function will cause digitalis to accumulate in the body rather than being excreted normally through urine. Therefore, any disorders that disrupt kidney function (including dehydration) make digitalis toxicity more likely.

Digitalis toxicity can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness, low blood pressure, cardiac instability and bradycardia. Death can also result from excessive digitalis intake. Several reports of illness and injuries have been received.



## HOW DIGITALIS TOXICITY OCCURS

Digitalis toxicity can occur from a single exposure or chronic overmedication, or it may occur in patients with normal blood levels of digitalis if other risks such as renal insufficiency are present.

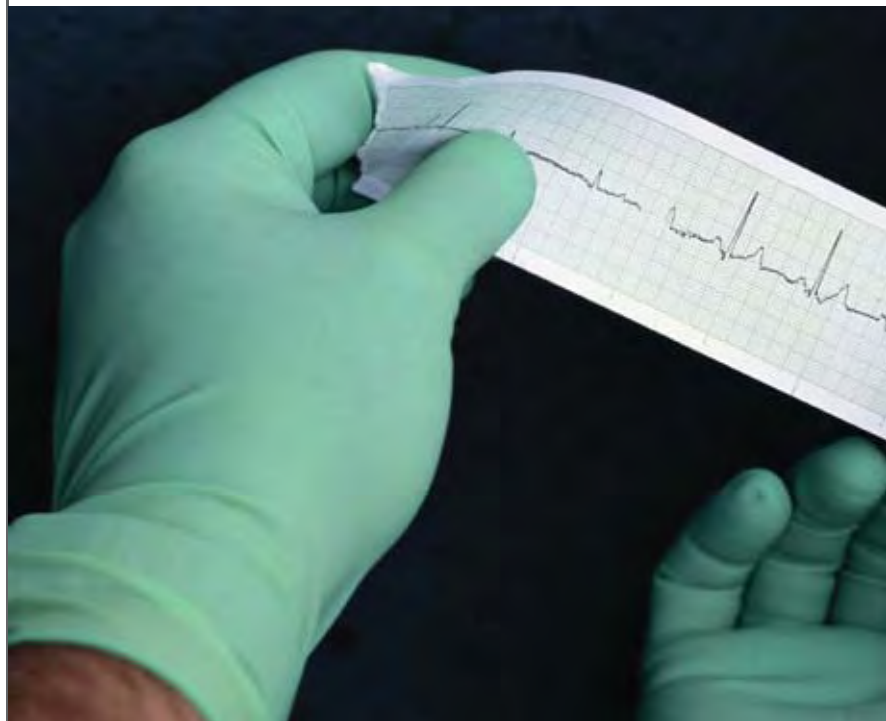
People with heart failure are commonly given diuretics along with Digoxin. Diuretics can cause low potassium which can increase the risk of digitalis toxicity.

Other causes include the following:

- Advanced age
- Myocardial infarction or ischemia
- Hypothyroidism
- Hypocalcaemia

## Diagnosing Digitalis Toxicity

- **Blood work** – Digoxin levels should fall within a range of 0.8 – 2.0. Levels above 2.0 are considered toxic.
- **EKG** – Digoxin toxicity is often identified by a disturbance (reduction) in the ST Interval
- **Clinically**
- **Visual changes** (halos, lights or bright spots, changes in color perception, blurred vision)
- **Confusion**
- **Loss of Appetite**
- **Nausea and/or Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Palpitations**
- **Irregular Pulse**





## DRUG INTERACTIONS

Digitalis toxicity can also be caused by Digoxin's adverse interactions with the following drugs:

- Quinidine
- Erythromycin
- Verapamil, diltiazem, nifedipine
- Captopril
- Anticholinergic drugs
- Ibuprofen
- Amiodarone

## INJURIES

- Lethal Arrhythmias
- Heart Failure
- Stroke



## CONTACT A DIGITALIS LAWYER FREE NO-OBLIGATION CONSULTATION

Please contact us for a free no-obligation consultation. The more information that you can provide, the more helpful it will be. You are under no obligation to continue. Any information you provide will be held in the strictest of confidence.

If you have questions, please call us toll-free at **1-866-735-2792**. Thank you.



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