Kelley Bernheim Dolinsky, LLC Warns Recalled Stryker Rejuvenate Hip Patients That They May Have Increased Risk of Serious Long-term Health Complications.

The Associated Press

BOSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul 27, 2012--Kelley Bernheim Dolinsky, LLC specialists in defective medical device litigation – www.dangerousproductslawfirm.com – are warning hip replacement patients of a recently issued voluntary global recall of the Stryker Orthopedics Rejuvenate and ABG II Modular-Neck Hip Replacement Systems due to the potential for development of serious long-term health complications.

According to Walter Kelley, a product liability attorney at Kelley Bernheim Dolinsky, LLC in Boston, Massachusetts, with expertise in national defective medical device litigation, “The overwhelming majority of my Stryker hip clients are not the elderly patients in nursing homes many people that might think would be the most affected by the Rejuvenate recall. They are relatively young men and women between the ages forty to sixty years old who were promised the Rejuvenate hip would live up to its moniker and restore their mobility and lifestyle. Instead, they are left worrying about the long term health risks associated with metal poisoning from the chromium and cobalt debris in the tissues surrounding their implant while they wait to schedule a corrective revision surgery to minimize any permanent tissue damage or osteolysis that has begun.” “The Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Modular Hip Systems allow surgeons to customize femoral version, offset, and limb length to suit each patient’s unique build,” Attorney Kelley continued. “This dual modularity, along with the fact that the majority of the Stryker hips are composed of plastic-on-ceramic, led Stryker to claim that these models were superior to other metal-on-metal hips which have come under fire for a high failure rate. However, the neck/stem joint on the Rejuvenate and ABG II hips is still metal-on-metal, and friction between these parts can lead to corrosion and fretting, causing small particles of metal to be released into the patient’s blood stream.” Attorney Kelley added, “Stryker acknowledges that, as a result of design flaws with the ABG II and Rejuvenate hip replacements, recipients of these hip devices may experience ‘excessive metal debris and/or ion generation,’ leading to ‘possible Adverse Local Tissue Reaction (ALTR), inflammation, and immunological responses spurring metallosis, necrosis, and/or pain.’ “Each of these side effects could lead to revision surgery to replace the device. Experts worry many patients will develop pseudo-tumors growing in the tissue surrounding their Rejuvenate and ABG II modular-neck stems. These benign tumors are growths of pus and scar tissue resulting from the inflammatory process that has occurred in response to chromium and cobalt debris from their hip implant. This inflammation can cause necrosis or soft tissue death in the hip joint,” said Attorney Kelley.

Providing a detailed explanation, Attorney Kelley stated, “When shards of cobalt

and chromium from the metal-on-metal neck joints of the defective hips enter the patient's blood stream, it can cause an adverse local tissue reaction known as metallosis, a type of metal poisoning. While very small amounts of metal can generally be dissolved and eliminated by the patients' bodies, larger quantities of metal, as seen with the Rejuvenate and ABG II hips, can cause a range of dangerous adverse reactions. Effects of metallosis may include bone dissolution (osteolysis), metal hypersensitivity, inflammation, and necrosis (death) of bone and tissue. In severe cases, metallosis can cause a decrease in the lymphocyte cells which defend the body against tumors and viruses, a decrease in CD8+T cells that fight pathogens and malignancies, and even changes to the patient's DNA. The Field Safety Notice issued by Stryker is a crucial warning to patients who may be experiencing symptoms of metallosis so that they can seek appropriate medical care." Attorney Kelley concluded that, "In response to this notice, a number of orthopedic surgeons and medical professionals have distributed similar notices to patients who have been implanted with the defective Stryker devices. Victims of the Stryker hip recall who have complications and/or require a corrective revision surgery have legitimate product liability claims against Stryker and are entitled to significant compensation from Stryker Orthopedics, Inc..." said Attorney Kelley.

Walter Kelley is the managing partner of Kelley Bernheim Dolinsky, LLC's Boston, Massachusetts office. His law firm is helping patients across the United States with Stryker Hip claims and settlements. For more information about the Stryker Rejuvenate Modular Hip System recall litigation, contact Kelley Bernheim Dolinsky at www.dangerousproductslawfirm.com.

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