

FDA Looking to Ban B6 Supplements, Give Boost to Big Pharma

Post by Elizabeth Renter | NaturalSociety
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Vitamin B6, naturally present in a variety of foods, is necessary for proper nerve function, protein synthesis, regulating blood sugar, and producing antibodies and hemoglobin. In other words, it's pretty important stuff. But, while many people get their B6 through supplements, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is looking to make things a lot more difficult—by slowly taking all forms of B6 supplements off the market so Big Pharma can make millions off of prescriptions instead.

According to the Alliance for Natural Health (ANH), the FDA has already begun their crusade. They removed Pyridoxamine (a natural form of B6) supplements from the market at the request of BioStratum, a pharmaceutical company. Why? Because BioStratum thinks it might be nice to use Pyridoxamine in a prescription drug. They haven't developed the drug, we don't know what it is, and who knows when it will come to fruition, but the FDA honored a request from the big corporation to protect the company's interest.

Now, the FDA is poised to pull another B6 product: P5P.

You see, the human body must convert B6 to P5P to make it usable within the body. Fortunately, some supplement companies have created P5P and it is currently available as a

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natural supplement. But, another pharmaceutical giant has petitioned the FDA to "protect its interests".

Medicure Pharma would like all P5P removed from the supplement market so they can begin to work on a drug containing the crucial form of B6. In their petition, they state:

"Pharmaceutical companies developing new drugs must be protected from companies that may seek to market the ingredients in those drugs as dietary supplements. The marketing of such products has the potential to undermine the incentive for the development of new drugs because many people may choose to purchase the supplements rather than the drugs."

So, that basically sums it up. In order to protect the money-grabbing interests of this company, at whatever risk to the health of the general public, the federal government should step in and take the supplements out. I suppose that line of thought makes sense if you are a top official with Medicure Pharma.

But, the FDA has not yet honored the ANH's petition yet concerning the B6 supplements. And while the FDA doesn't always care what is in the best interest of the people, we hope that by joining the ANH, we can make our voices heard.

You can help. Contact the FDA and Congress today and let them know that not all consumers are interested in drugs over supplements. You can find a petition here on the Alliance for Natural Health's website.

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Two other equally upsetting cases come to mind. Through examining and following the FDA's decisions, anyone can see that the organization continuously pushes pharmaceutical drugs while censoring health food and supplements and their ability to heal. Such is the case with a company known as Fleminger, Inc. and their green tea product, where the FDA threatened to seize Fleminger Inc.'s products, in addition to making them completely change their claim statement. The company claimed green tea reduces the risk of breast and prostate cancer, so

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the FDA insisted they use the claim:

"Green tea may reduce the risk of breast or prostate cancer. FDA does not agree that green tea may reduce the risk because there is very little scientific evidence for the claim."

In another situation, claims made by Diamond Foods that omega-3's found in walnuts produce health benefits make their walnuts "drugs". As far as the FDA is concerned, these "drugs" can not be legally marketed in the United States without an approved new drug application.

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