How Johnson & Johnson Failed to Warn Consumers of

Deadly Internal Bleeding Risks

The XARELTO DISASTER

MARC WHITEHEAD, Attorney at Law

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First Edition

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Whitehead & Associates, LLP

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Introduction

When you go to a doctor to receive treatment for a serious health concern—such as a stroke or deep vein thrombosis (blood clots located deep in the body)—you trust him or her to provide the best possible care and to fully inform you of all risks involved.

But if you or a loved one suffered internal bleeding as a result of taking the blood thinner Xarelto (Rivaroxaban), you may feel as if your trust in the medical process and your human rights have been violated.

You're not alone: According to the Wall Street Journal, more than a handful of lawsuits have already been filed against Xarelto's manufacturer. As many as 350 "serious, disabling or fatal" injuries resulting from the drug were reported to the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) in 2012 alone.

So what should you do if you or a loved one suffered similar injuries? Here's a quick primer:

1. **Contact your doctor or a medical professional you can trust immediately** to find out about alternative forms of treatment. Your health and safety should always be a priority.

2. **Compile your records:** text messages, receipts, calendar notes, phone calls—anything that will help you create a solid timeline of your symptoms and general experiences taking the medicine.

3. **Research Xarelto** by looking at ingredients, listed side effects, clinical trials, and pending lawsuits. Make sure to do this *after* you create a record of your symptoms, since you could psychologically convince yourself that you've experienced symptoms that you actually haven't.

4. **Talk to a qualified attorney about your rights** and what actions you should take based on your unique situation.

This e-book offers a quick but detailed primer on Xarelto and the flurry of recent legal and research activity about the drug.

Since there is a surplus of information out there about Xarelto, our goal is to translate the technical jargon and cut out the irrelevant details. We want to arm you with the information you need to defend yourself and make well-informed choices about medical care.

Here's a brief overview of what we'll cover:

Section I: The Facts about Xarelto ("Xarelto 101")

Most resources introduce this drug by bogging you down with information about its chemical components, but our approach will narrow it down to need-to-know facts. We will explain what Xarelto is designed to treat, how it works, how it has been tested, and why it came to be prescribed to such a broad audience. This section will also describe how and why this medication has caused so many unwanted side-effects, and how organizations like the FDA are responding to these cases.

Section II: Legal Considerations

In this section, we will report on the current legal actions taken against Janssen Pharmaceutical (the manufacturer of Xarelto) and their co-marketer, Bayer Healthcare. Then, we'll briefly explain how these kinds of class action lawsuits usually unfold and what you should do as a plaintiff. Finally, we'll review your options regarding how you can seek justice and compensation.

This e-book is in no way intended as a substitute for authorial, in-person medical or legal advice.

Again, we encourage those who have experienced symptoms possibly related to taking Xarelto to contact a medical professional first and foremost. Following this step, our knowledgeable legal team can advise you on how to take legal action and obtain compensation for internal bleeding, blood clots, decreased hemoglobin, dyspnea, hematoma, and other difficulties experienced as a direct result of taking this medication.

We hope this e-book gives you a firm grasp of the subject and gives you some confidence and clarity about your next steps. For any questions or clarifications about the concepts we'll discuss, please contact the experienced attorneys at Marc Whitehead & Associates, LLP at 1-(800)-562-9830 for a free consultation.

Section I: The Facts about Xarelto ("Xarelto 101")

Invented and manufactured by the pharmaceutical giant Bayer, Rivaroxaban is an oral anticoagulant designed to prevent blood clots by inhibiting factor Xa. It is marketed by Janssen Pharmaceutical as Xarelto, and it is the first orally active direct factor Xa inhibitor.

On July 1, 2011, the FDA approved the use of Rivaroxaban for prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in adults having knee or hip replacement surgery. In November of the same year, the FDA also approved Rivaroxaban for stroke prophylaxis in certain patients.

Researchers quickly discovered one of the most serious adverse effects of Xarelto: *internal bleeding*. Although this is a common side effect of anticoagulant medications, Xarelto poses a more serious threat, because there is currently no antidote that can reverse its blood-thinning effects. In an emergency situation, patients can be at risk of irreversible bleeding complications that can be life-threatening.

According to a document compiled by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, 356 reports of "serious, disabling, or fatal injuries" as a result of Rivaroxaban were filed to the FDA in the first quarter of 2012 alone. In an ironic twist, this same document noted that one of the most common side effects of Xarelto was pulmonary embolism; a blockage problem that the medication is actually designed to treat and prevent! Most of the patients who suffered a pulmonary embolism had only taken the drug for short-term, post-surgery treatment.

Although the exact number of lawsuits filed against Janssen Pharmaceutical and Bayer Healthcare is unknown, the charges raised include the following:

- Janssen and Bayer failed to properly warn patients of the risk of dangerous and potentially life-threatening internal bleeding when taking Xarelto.

- The makers of Xarelto did not advise medical professionals on how to act and stabilize patients in the event of bleeding.

- Janssen and Bayer marketed the medication as a superior alternative to Warfarin,

despite having knowledge that Xarelto caused more frequent instances of gastrointestinal bleeding and transfusions than its competitors.

- The manufacturers of the drug exhibited bias for maximizing profits rather than minimizing the dangerous effects of the drug.

In light of these charges, the plaintiffs in these cases want compensation from the manufacturers for medical expenses (past and future), pain and suffering, lost wages, and -- for the loved ones of those who suffered fatal accidents -- funeral costs. Many lawsuits also seek what are known as punitive damages, designed to punish the companies responsible and deter other pharmaceutical businesses from making similar mistakes.

Every state has a different statute of limitations that determines in what time frame an injury claim must be filed. If you have been a victim of injuries caused by Xarelto, it's important to act fast. Our legal team can help you determine the statute of limitations for your case and discuss your options for obtaining the compensation you deserve.

Hemorrhagic Complications

A 2013 study from the Goethe University Hospital in Germany establishes a strong correlation between Rivaroxaban treatment and hemorrhagic complications in patients with certain risk factors. The study, titled *The Gap Between Trial Data and Clinical Practice*, listed the following as risk factors for hemorrhagic complications when prescribing Rivaroxaban:

- Prescriber errors
- Impaired renal function
- Comedication with antiplatelet drugs or p-glycoprotein inhibitors
- Old age
- Low body weight

The authors reported the following*: "Strikingly, the majority of the bleeding complications reported in this compilation of case reports showed at least one and in most cases several risk factors... We should, therefore, carefully select our patients for treatment with the NOA with an emphasis on age, body weight, renal function and comedications and follow them faithfully concerning their medication adherence and eventual side effects."*

Postoperative Treatment

In 2012, a 58-year-old Caucasian male who had just undergone total hip arthroplasty experienced acute-onset severe rectal bleeding after taking Rivaroxaban in the postoperative period. Although the Rivaroxaban had been immediately discontinued, the patient required extensive treatment with units of packed red blood cells to support hemodynamic stability and manage the hemorrhage.

The researchers concluded:

"Although advantageous with regard to its oral availability and ongoing use without the need for daily monitoring, Rivaroxaban does not come without rare but severe side effects...This case, as the first to describe severe hemorrhage and Rivaroxaban, serves as a reminder to those prescribing the medicine that they must inform the patient of the risk of such a serious side effect and the need for urgent medical attention if it occurs."

Irregular Heartbeat

A 77-year-old female patient with a history of controlled hypertension (high blood pressure) was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) and prescribed Rivaroxaban as treatment. Five months into treatment, she complained of painful swelling on her head. A CT scan revealed a large extradural hematoma and a right occipital subdural hematoma. The patient was instructed to stop taking the medication; six weeks later, the complications had completely resolved.

"Our patient lacked provoking factors (trauma, renal dysfunction, or uncontrolled blood pressure), yet developed a spontaneous subdural hematoma, which is a serious complication. Awareness and early recognition of this grave complication and withdrawal of Rivaroxaban can be lifesaving."

The BMJ Investigates Misleading Claims About Anticoagulant Drugs

The BMJ (formerly known as the British Medical Journal) published a 2014 investigation of new oral anticoagulants, which found that certain medications, including Rivaroxaban, were falsely marketed as not requiring plasma level dose adjustment, as is the case with the safer, older alternative drug Warfarin.

Boehringer Ingelheim, manufacturer of the anticoagulant Dabigatran, withheld analyses that indicated how many major bleeds could be prevented through regular dose adjustment. The company claims to have withheld the information because the analysis was not reliable in predicting patient outcomes.

The complaints leveled against Boehringer Ingelheim precede more recent concerns surrounding the manufacturers of the drug Xarelto. In the latter case, users challenge the company's assertion that "the drug's box label sufficiently warned about the possibility of severe bleeding and whether the companies wrongly told health care providers that follow-up blood testing was not necessary while taking the drug."

The investigation noted: *"In the single key trial comparing Dabigatran with Warfarin in non-valvular atrial fibrillation, major and minor bleeding occurred in 16.4% of patients a year taking the higher dose of Dabigatran compared with 18.15% a year for Warfarin."*

Irony at the Racetracks

Although it's not exactly a scientific study, a recent predicament involving Janssen Pharmaceuticals-sponsored NASCAR driver Brian Vickers has raised a few eyebrows. Vickers, the main sponsor spokesman for the company's drug Xarelto, suffered a blood clot that prevented him from participating in an Auto Club Speedway race in March.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals has an active marketing presence in the auto racing industry. In fact, the company sponsored the Michael Waltrip Racing No. 55 car at the Auto Club Speedway race as well, along with the Xfinity Series Drive4Clots.com 300 race.

Despite Vickers' public advocacy of Xarelto, he hasn't used the product since 2013, since official contest rules prohibit racers from using blood thinners due to the risk of fatal blood loss in the event of an accident. In a recent ESPN article, journalist Bob Pockrass

concluded "The key for Vickers' future will be whether he wants to possibly continue to risk developing blood clots by getting off the blood thinners in order to race."

Given the most recent information leaked about Xarelto and its lack of an antidote, Vickers could have potentially put himself in a fatal situation had he raced with the drug in his system.

Section II: Legal Considerations

Bayer and Johnson & Johnson Accused of Downplaying Risks

The most common charge against manufacturers of Xarelto is that they either downplayed or completely omitted the serious risks involved in taking the drug. Consumers have claimed that 65 deaths have been connected to bleeding caused by the drug, which, unlike its competitor Warfarin, does not have an antidote. Based on the FDA's 2011 review of Xarelto, and a number of medical studies since, it also appears that the manufacturers deliberately rejected the advice of experts to take more precautions when treating patients with the drug.

When *The Wall Street Journal* published an article in August 2014 on the increasing number of lawsuits being filed against Bayer and Johnson & Johnson (J&J), a spokesperson for J&J reached out, saying the following: "The risk of bleeding, a known side effect for all blood thinners, is clearly highlighted in the warnings and precautions of Xarelto prescribing information." Following this quote, the article notes that the spokesperson did not answer questions surrounding increased advertising or respond to the reporter's question about the number of lawsuits that have been filed thus far.

As more and more cases emerge, patients are increasingly pressuring Bayer and Johnson & Johnson to consolidate lawsuits, which would make it easier for plaintiffs to prepare and file cases.

A History of Xarelto

U.S. regulators originally approved Xarelto in 2011, specifically for the purpose of preventing blood clots in patients undergoing hip and knee surgeries. However, doctors extended the drug’s use to treat irregular heartbeat and potentially fatal blood clots in legs and lungs.

Since its inception, Xarelto has been marketed as a safer, more effective, and more convenient blood-thinner than Coumadin (Warfarin), a drug that had been used by stroke patients since the 1960s. While taking Coumadin, patients were required to undergo frequent tests to monitor their blood plasma levels. Xarelto’s boosters said that patients wouldn't have to engage in this due diligence process. Naturally, this promise

added to the drug's appeal, but patients were unaware that this advantage came at a potential cost.

Xarelto's sales reflected its appeal, racking up more than $2 billion by 2013. In the same year, Bayer requested to expand the use of the drug to patients undergoing heart surgery, but U.S. regulators rejected it. According to Bloomberg Business, Xarelto's U.S. sales earned Johnson & Johnson $414 million in the third quarter of 2014. In the same timespan, Bayer generated $522.5 million.

In 2014, Boehringer Ingelheim Gmbh reached a $650 million settlement after similar claims arose concerning the company's blood-thinning drug Pradaxa. After studies established a link between Pradaxa and more than 500 patient deaths, the company was forced to resolve over 4,000 lawsuits.

The Real Cost of a Test-Free Alternative

Xarelto's strongest selling point was that patients wouldn't have to undergo frequent blood tests while on the drug. But although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) didn't *require* blood testing for Xarelto users, its review of Xarelto highly recommends it.

According to the FDA review itself, "While it is convenient for patients to dispense with the monthly monitoring required by Warfarin, infrequent monitoring (perhaps at initiation and then yearly) to assure appropriate dosing of the drugs that prevent stroke and cause bleeding may improve outcomes and be acceptable to patients."

What's most perplexing about this discovery is that, had Xarelto manufacturers implemented these guidelines, the drug would have *still* carried a significant advantage over its biggest competitor, Warfarin. More importantly, directing doctors to require this simple blood test could have significantly improved patient safety.

The FDA further stated, in its initial 2011 review of Xarelto, that "[Xarelto manufacturer] has not chosen to utilize this information. In fact, so far as we are aware, none of the other manufacturers/sponsors of other oral anticoagulants that inhibit single coagulation factors have chosen to utilize pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic information to explore adjusting dose to optimize safety and efficacy."

This statement is perhaps unsurprising in light of the alarming number of lawsuits filed against similar anticoagulant manufacturers, some of which have been cited in this book. However, it also raises questions about the reliability of the FDA as a whole.

Understanding the Role of the FDA

The phrase "FDA-approved" immediately grants authority and trust to a product and its manufacturers. It is used so often in advertising that we've come to think of it as an impressive credential. But after the public outcry from "FDA-approved" Xarelto and countless other endorsed medications, many patients and doctors have been left wondering: "Can the FDA *really* be trusted?"

Answering this question leads to some bleak, conspiratorial, and overall unsatisfying answers. But as it turns out, the real question we should be asking is: "Just how much power does the FDA really have?"

As an entity in itself, the FDA lacks the authority to require manufacturers to test patients and actively investigate the safety of a drug. Fortunately, the medical community and the patients it serves *do* have the power to demand this quality and protection. Patient lawsuits reflect this authority, as do movements currently formed by physicians and scientists urging for more testing and optimized dosing.

Signs of a Pushback?

Shockingly, Xarelto manufacturers didn't exhibit the least bit of discouragement or precaution after the lawsuits that had already accumulated by September 2014. Around this time, Bayer and Johnson & Johnson announced ambitious plans to launch clinical trials of Xarelto for the treatment of three new diseases.

The manufacturers began developing a cardiovascular research program that would involve testing Xarelto's effectiveness in treating acute coronary syndrome (ACS), peripheral artery disease, and embolic stroke of undetermined source.

However, despite this bold effort to widen the market for a drug already leading in sales, they have thus far been unsuccessful. In previous years, the partners requested FDA approval to treat ACS with Xarelto three separate times. Their most recent attempt

resulted in a unanimous 10-0 rejection from the FDA advisory committee, indicating that there just might be a pushback against these manufacturers as a result of documented negligence.

Still, *The Wall Street Journal* points out that Xarelto manufacturers already have a long list of approved indications for the drug. Not to mention, this most recent program follows 8 previous efforts that the company has undergone since March 2013. However, recent lawsuits will likely stall this process.

Patients Fight Back

On February 18, 2015, a Louisiana woman named Deborah Lyons filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Louisiana against the following parties:

- Janssen Research and Development (formerly Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development)
- Janssen Ortho
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. (formerly Ortho-McNeill Janssen Pharmaceuticals)
- Bayer Pharma
- Bayer Healthcare
- Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals

Lyons alleges that all parties involved are responsible for failing to report crucial information about the side-effects and risks involved in taking the medication Xarelto. According to her complaint, Lyons' doctor prescribed her Xarelto on March 2, 2014. Shortly thereafter, she suffered "three severe bleeding events for which she had to undergo three hospitalizations and blood transfusions." Her lawsuit argues that the defendant companies "negligently and/or fraudulently represented to the medical and healthcare community, the Food and Drug Administration, the plaintiffs, the plaintiff's physicians and the public in general, that Xarelto had been tested and was found to be safe and/or effective for its indicated use."

The lawsuit further alleges that Xarelto manufacturers acted fraudulently in hiding the drug's potential side effects. Lyons is suing for unspecified damages as well as court costs and attorney fees.

Daniel Hernandez Lawsuit

A Rhode Island man named Daniel Hernandez filed a lawsuit on February 5, 2015 against the same list of defendants as Lyons did. Hernandez is seeking damages associated with using Xarelto from 2011 to the present.

According to his complaint, the defendants received a warning from the FDA to halt product promotion on June 6, 2013. The complaint further states that the FDA received over 1,000 reports regarding Xarelto's side effects, which included at least 65 deaths. Hernandez emphasizes that there is no antidote to Xarelto that could reverse hemorrhagic complications, and that the defendants failed to properly inform physicians and consumers of this risk.

He alleges negligence, fraud, deception, and breach of warranty. Seeking damages resulting from product liability and distress, Hernandez is suing for $50,000 in addition to court costs and attorney fees.

Recalls and Other Red Flags

The negligence of Xarelto manufacturers extends even beyond failing to report potential risk and advice precautions. In October 2014, Johnson & Johnson's Janssen unit was forced to recall 13,500 bottles of Xarelto after discovering microbial contamination in samples of the drug. The company claimed that the contaminated bottles came from its Puerto Rico-based manufacturing plant, which is one of the four plants Johnson & Johnson spent $225 million upgrading.

In an email to industry news website Fierce Pharma, a company spokesperson wrote:

"Janssen is committed to ensuring the quality of its products. We received a complaint involving one bottle of a XARELTO sample, and therefore are recalling the entire lot. All XARELTO dosage strengths remain available for patients and product obtained at a pharmacy is not impacted."

Although unrelated to the Xarelto controversy specifically, the Janssen unit faced a similar problem one year prior. In that case, the company recalled 5,000 vials of Risperdal Consta -- an injectable, long-acting alternative to the antipsychotic pill Risperdal -- when a sample bottle was reported to be contaminated with a common mold.

Mass Torts 101: How Xarelto Victims Are Fighting for Justice

When companies manufacture, distribute and market products that cause harm, injured victims and their families can take to the court system for recourse.

A hurt person can bring an action known as a **tort** to obtain compensation for damages**.** A tort is a type of *civil action*, as opposed to a *criminal action*. The person who sues is known as the **plaintiff**, and the company or person being sued is known as the **defendant**. In general, for a tort to succeed, three basic things must be true.

1. **First of all, someone suffered an injury that led to costs**. For instance, if patient suffers a stroke or bleeds out after taking Xarelto, the court would definitely consider the victim "injured."

2. **Some person or entity (like a company, such as Johnson & Johnson) directly or indirectly caused that injury as a result of negligence, carelessness or other wrongdoing**.

3. **The entity responsible has money to pay for the damages**. A source of funds is importance. By contrast, imagine a situation in which a drunk driver with no insurance or assets causes a serious car wreck. A lawsuit might not be feasible, if the driver has no way to provide any compensation. In Xarelto cases, however, this last constraint is not a problem, considering that companies like J&J and Bayer Pharma have many billions of dollars.

When a lot of different people suffer similar harm from similar causes, they can combine their torts into what's known as a **mass tort**. These plaintiffs can combine forces to sue one or several defendants. To pursue a mass tort action, plaintiffs have to ask the court for permission. The court will decide based on factors like:

- How many plaintiffs got hurt;
- Where the plaintiffs live (are they close to each other or far apart?);
- The nature of the injures (are they similar or not?);
- Whether a single cause or set of causes was likely responsible for the damages.

Mass torts are not the same thing as **class action** lawsuits. Both legal processes bundle similar cases together for the purposes of expediency (so the court can speed things up) and to make sure that results don't vary wildly.

In a mass tort, you can have a trial that's separate from other plaintiffs' trials. In a class action, the court treats you and other plaintiffs essentially as a single group, and a single trial determines the outcome. From the perspective of a plaintiff, mass torts offer some advantages. For instance, statistically speaking, you have a greater potential for large compensation. Defendants and their attorneys can also share resources and insights.

Mass torts can also evolve into a suite of lawsuits known as **Multi District Litigation** or MDL, in which different suits are organized to go before one judge and one jurisdiction.

Mass torts can get quite complicated, both because of all the legal "moving parts" and because of the high stakes involved. Liable defendants often stand to lose millions of dollars -- in some cases, billions of dollars. As a result, defendants generally have both the motivation and the means to go to great lengths to discredit the plaintiffs' cases.

To fight back, plaintiffs and their attorneys must be meticulous, prepared, resilient, and strategic. You may have compelling science on your side and a tragic, heart wrenching story. But do not expect the defendant to give any quarter or to admit fault.

So what can you do to prepare yourself and your family for the road ahead?

Finding a Qualified Law Firm to Represent You

There are times when an ambitious person can well represent himself or herself in the legal system. For instance, if you're writing up a simple will, you could just use a template from Nolo.com to write the will. If you get into a minor fender-bender that

leads to no major injuries, you could handle the insurance company negotiations on your own.

However, when it comes to cases involving serious injuries, like strokes and bleeding in the brain, you really want to find a qualified attorney to represent your interests. Be choosy about which law firm you select. Given the rash of legal actions that have commenced against companies like Janssen and Johnson & Johnson, you will probably see a lot of advertising over the next several months regarding Xarelto related claims.

- How can you vet potential firms?
- How can you know whether you might have a claim?
- How can you work well with the law firm you choose to obtain fair results and also reclaim your dignity and protect your health and your family?

Absent context, it's difficult to know whether you have a case. You could be underestimating your need for help. The costs of post-bleeding-related brain surgery and therapy could add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars, for instance. Or you might be overestimating your case. For instance, perhaps your stroke could be traced to a genetic abnormality instead of to Xarelto. That's why context is essential. Speak with an attorney if there's any ambiguity; there's no harm in at least calling.

To vet prospective attorneys, first, obtain references. You can use the internet, TV, personal referrals from friends at work, etc. It's time to think through the principles by which you want to govern the search. Why do you want an attorney? What are you hoping to accomplish? What are the essential values that you want the lawyer to have and demonstrate?

Here's a useful exercise to that end. Imagine how a relationship with an attorney might go *wrong*, and then define your values in opposite terms. For instance:

- ***I don't want a lawyer who has a dodgy ethical track record or problems with clients*** translates into the following value: ***The law firm has a stellar track record and an A+ record with the Better Business Bureau.***

- ***I'm worried that the attorney will ignore me or treat me like "just a number***" translates into the following value: ***The attorney treats me with compassion and his or her team answers my questions and meets my needs***.

- ***I'm afraid the attorney will pressure me into taking action I don't want to take*** translates into the following value: ***The attorney listens and respects what I want.***

- ***I worry that the attorney might be under-qualified to help me*** translates into the following value: ***The attorney has strong credentials – for instance, he or she is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and/or is AV rated by Martindale Hubble.***

Once you have these principles outlined, review the candidate lawyers' websites and other materials, and winnow your list of prospective firms down to about three. Then set appointments for a free consultation. Before your consultation, write down any questions you have about your case, about the process, or about the firm's history and qualifications. Write down the answers you get.

During your consultations, pay attention both to substance of the conversation as well as to your intuition. Do you get along with the attorney and his or her staff? Do you feel comfortable with the values that animate the law firm?

Ask about fee arrangements. In mass tort cases, attorneys often work on what's known as a "contingency" basis. This means that you only pay for legal services if the attorney wins a settlement or achieves a verdict for you. In that case, you pay a percentage of this amount.

Once you have chosen an attorney, get to know the law firm's processes and people. To save time, develop the habit of writing down your questions on paper (or on a Word document) whenever they occur to you, so that you can "batch ask" them to the attorney. In addition, you might find it useful (starting immediately) to compile any relevant evidence, including doctor's notes, a written timeline of events, written witness accounts, and so forth.

Lastly, develop strategies to deal with other needs -- financial, emotional, psychological, logistical, etc. -- so that your entire life isn't on hold while the legal process plays out. After all, depending on the nature of your injury and the size and scope of your legal action against a Xarelto manufacturer (or some other liable party), you may not get clarity about your case for months if not longer.

Avoid living life in limbo until this resolves. Work with people you trust -- such as your attorney, your financial advisor, your doctor, your personal trainer, your employer and your friends -- to manage various problems that have been raised or worsened by the injury, so that you can reclaim a degree of calm and control over your life.

More Background about Attorney Marc Whitehead and His Legal Team

Attorney Whitehead and his legal team are proud of their track record and numerous distinctions in the arena of Texas personal injury law. Whitehead & Associates, LLP has been rated A+ by the Better Business Bureau – a reflection of our team's devotion to customer service. We specialize in plaintiff personal injury, mass tort, pharmaceutical, insurance & ERISA litigation, social security disability law and veterans disability law.

Attorney Whitehead has served as law professor at University of Houston Law Center, where he taught Civil Trial Advocacy, as well as an Instructor of Civil Trial Advocacy at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

He is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial Law, putting him in a rare group of lawyers who must pass very stringent requirements to obtain and maintain this certification. He's also active in many professional associations, serving as an American Association for Justice-Leader Forum Member, an AAJ Risperdal Litigation Group Member, an AAJ Xarelto Litigation Group Member, an AAJ Transvaginal Mass Litigation Group Member and an AAJ Toxic, Environmental and Pharmaceutical Section Member. In addition, he has been honored as an Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialist, rated "AV" by Martindale Hubble, rated 10.0 by AVVO, rated by SuperLawyers, and rated by the National Trial Lawyers Association as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Texas.

Conclusion

This complicated account of the pharmaceutical industry as it relates to the drug Xarelto offers a devastating, though important, example of what happens when profit is valued over people. Upon reflecting back on all of the studies, news reports, and statistics cited in this case, it's not difficult to deduce the motivation behind the behavior of Xarelto manufacturers.

The millions of dollars of profit Bayer and Johnson & Johnson made off of inaccurately and irresponsibly advertising Xarelto came at the cost of at least 65 lives and over 1,000 injuries. We compiled all of the need-to-know information to give you more control over your choices as a consumer.

In a world of constant, increasingly aggressive advertising, it's difficult to know whom you can trust. When it comes to healthcare, this lack of surety can be downright agonizing. Our goal is to minimize this stress by keeping the public informed and by defending against injustice.

If you or a loved one has had a negative experience with the drug Xarelto, don't hesitate to contact the legal team at Marc Whitehead & Associates to discuss your rights and your options for taking action. Call us for a confidential consultation now at (800) 562-9830.

Disclaimer

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Professional Experience

Marc Whitehead & Associates, Attorneys at Law, LLP, Founder
Specializing in plaintiff=s personal injury, mass tort, pharmaceutical, insurance & ERISA litigation, social security disability law and veterans disability law

Adjunct Professor of Law (2002)
University of Houston Law Center
Civil Trial Advocacy

Instructor (2003)
National Institute of Trial Advocacy
Civil Trial Advocacy

Instructor (2005-2007)
National Business Institute
Social Security Disability

Board Certified

Personal Injury Trial Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Social Security Disability Advocate
National Board of Trial Advocates

Educational Experience

J.D. University of Houston Law Center, 1992
Top 21% of Graduating Class
B.B.A. in Finance, Texas A&M University, 1989
President=s List
Valedictorian, Normangee High School 1985

Admitted to Practice

State Bar of Texas
U.S. District Courts, All Texas Districts
United States Court of Appeals-Fifth Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Professional Activities & Associations

American Association for Justice-Leader Forum Member
AAJ Risperdal Litigation Group Member
AAJ Xarelto Litigation Group Member
AAJ Transvaginal Mess Litigation Group Member
AAJ Toxic, Environmental, and Pharmaceutical Torts Section

Houston Trial Lawyers Association
President (2009-10)
President Elect (2008-2009)
Secretary/Treasurer (2007-08)
Vice-President (1999-2007)

Texas Trial Lawyers Association
Board Member (1997-Present)
Board of Advocates (1999-2001)

HBA Social Security Section Chairman (2004-2005)

Memberships and Honors
Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists
National Organization of Social Security Claims Representatives
Texas Aggie Bar Association
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association
College of the State Bar of Texas
Houston Bar Association
National Organization of Veterans Advocates
AV Rated by Martindale Hubble
10.0 AVVO Rating
Rated by SuperLawyers
Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Texas by National Trial Lawyers Assoc.

Articles & Publications

- *Tort Reform As It Relates to Strict Products Liability;*
- *A Lawyer's Guide for Determining Eligibility of Social Security Disability Claimants;*
- *Nuts & Bolts of Social Security Disability Law;*
- *The Five Step Sequential Evaluation Process Used in Determining Disability For Social Security Claimants;*
- *The Social Security Disability Puzzle-How to Fit the Pieces Together and Win Your Claim;*
- *Disability Insurance Policies-Solving the Mystery and Proving Your Case*
- *Veterans Disability Claims – Strategies for a Winning Campaign*
- *Car & Truck Crashes -10 Secrets Victims Should Know to Protect Their Rights*