
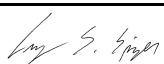
	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Civil Case Information Statement</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">(CIS)</h3> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">Use for initial Law Division Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under <i>Rule</i> 4:5-1 <b>Pleading will be rejected for filing, under <i>Rule</i> 1:5-6(c), if information above the black bar is not completed or attorney's signature is not affixed</b></p>		For Use by Clerk's Office Only
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			Chg/Ck Number:
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Attorney/Pro Se Name Gregory Spizer		Telephone Number (215) 960-0402	County of Venue Bergen <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Firm Name (if applicable) VSCP Law		Docket Number (when available) BER-L-	
Office Address 1500 Market Street, 12th Floor, East Tower Philadelphia, PA 19102		Document Type Complaint	
		Jury Demand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Name of Party (e.g., John Doe, Plaintiff) Rhonda Barabach		Caption RHONDA BARABACH v. EISAI, INC., EISAI CO., LTD, ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. AND ARENA PHARAMCEUTICALS, GmbH	
Case Type Number (See reverse side for listing) 606	Are sexual abuse claims alleged? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is this a professional malpractice case? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If you have checked "Yes," see <i>N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-27</i> and applicable case law regarding your obligation to file an affidavit of merit.	
Related Cases Pending? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If "Yes," list docket numbers BER-L-1208-21	
Do you anticipate adding any parties (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Name of defendant's primary insurance company (if known) <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
The Information Provided on This Form Cannot be Introduced into Evidence.			
Case Characteristics for Purposes of Determining if Case is Appropriate for Mediation			
Do parties have a current, past or recurrent relationship? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		If "Yes," is that relationship: <input type="checkbox"/> Employer/Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Neighbor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) <input type="checkbox"/> Familial <input type="checkbox"/> Business	
Does the statute governing this case provide for payment of fees by the losing party? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Use this space to alert the court to any special case characteristics that may warrant individual management or accelerated disposition			
 Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, please identify the requested accommodation:	
Will an interpreter be needed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, for what language?	
I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with <i>Rule</i> 1:38-7(b).			
Attorney Signature: 			

**VSCP LAW**

Gregory S. Spizer  
Attorney Identification No.: 043091998  
1500 Market Street  
East Tower, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone: (215) 960-0402

*Attorney for Plaintiff*

		: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY BERGEN COUNTY: LAW DIVISION
RHONDA BARABACH,	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
v.	:	: Docket No.: BER- L-
EISAI, INC., EISAI CO., LTD, ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS INC., and ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS, GmbH,	:	: COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND
Defendants.	:	:
	:	

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Rhonda Barabach, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and alleges against Defendants Eisai, Inc., Eisai Co., Ltd., Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH as follows:

**PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE**

1. Rhonda Barabach is an adult resident and citizen of Altavista, Virginia.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Eisai, Inc., is a Delaware corporation, having a principal place of business at 100 Tice Boulevard, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07677. As part of its business, Eisai, Inc., is involved in the research, development, sales, and marketing of pharmaceutical products, including Belviq and lorcaserin hydrochloride.

3. Eisai Co., Ltd., is a Japanese company having a principal place of business located at 4-6-10 Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8088, Japan. Upon information and belief, Eisai Co., Ltd., has transacted and conducted business in the State of New Jersey. Upon information and belief, Eisai Co., Ltd., has derived substantial revenue from goods and products sold and/or used in the State of New Jersey. Upon information and belief, Eisai Co., Ltd., expected or should have expected its acts to have consequence within New Jersey, and derived substantial revenue from interstate commerce within the United States, and New Jersey more particularly.

4. At all relevant times, Eisai Co., Ltd., was in the business of and was responsible for the design, research, manufacturing, testing, labeling advertising, promoting, marketing, selling, and/or distribution of the drug Belviq for use which primary purpose is chronic weight management.

5. Defendant Eisai, Inc. is subject to general jurisdiction in the State of New Jersey because it has continuous and systematic contacts, and Eisai, Inc., has its principal place of business in New Jersey.

6. Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH is a company organized under the laws of Switzerland with its principal place of business located at Untere Brühlstrasse 4, CH-4800 Zofingen, Switzerland. Upon information and belief, Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH has transacted and conducted business in the State of New Jersey. Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH has derived substantial revenue from goods and products used in the State of New Jersey. Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH expected or should have expected its acts to have consequence within New Jersey, and derived substantial revenue from interstate commerce within the United States, and New Jersey more particularly.

7. At all relevant times, Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH was in the business of and was responsible for the design, research, manufacturing, testing, labeling, advertising, promoting, marketing, selling, and/or distribution of the drug Belviq for use which primary purpose is chronic weight management.

8. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times, Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., exercised and exercises dominion and control over Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH including, but not limited to, as it relates to Belviq

9. Defendant Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 6154 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego, California 92121.

10. Defendant Arena is subject to personal jurisdiction in the State of New Jersey under New Jersey's Long-Arm Statute because:

- (a) Arena regularly transacts, solicits, and conducts business in New Jersey, including manufacturing, testing, advertising, promoting, marketing, selling, and distributing Belviq for use which primary purpose is chronic weight management; and
- (b) Arena engages in substantial and not isolated activity with New Jersey directly and through agents, subsidiaries or business affiliates.

11. Arena is subject to specific jurisdiction in the State of New Jersey because it has sufficient minimum contacts that arise out of or relate to Plaintiff's claims so that it could reasonably anticipate being subject to suit in the State of New Jersey:

- (a) Arena has derived substantial revenue from goods and products used and/or sold in the State of New Jersey.
- (b) Arena and Eisai collectively launched Belviq in the United States in 2012 and named Defendant Eisai in New Jersey as the exclusive distributor.
- (c) Arena collaborated with Eisai in New Jersey to communicate with the United States Food & Drug Administration regarding Belviq.

- (d) Arena worked closely and in collaboration with Eisai in New Jersey regarding marketing of Belviq.
- (e) Arena worked closely and in collaboration with Eisai in New Jersey regarding the instructions and labeling for Belviq.
- (f) Arena worked closely and collaborated with Eisai in New Jersey to provide guidance and instructions for packaging the final product for Belviq in New Jersey.
- (g) Arena worked closely and collaborated with Eisai in New Jersey in planning and conducting the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 trial involving Belviq.
- (h) Arena worked closely and collaborated with Eisai in New Jersey to review the data from the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 trial.
- (i) Arena worked closely and collaborated with Eisai in New Jersey to review the data from the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 trial.
- (j) Arena worked closely and in collaboration with Eisai in New Jersey to publish the findings of the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 trial.
- (k) Arena worked closely and in collaboration with Eisai in New Jersey on the development of Belviq and Belviq XR.
- (l) Arena worked closely and in collaboration with Eisai in New Jersey on the research, development, sales, and marketing of Belviq XR and lorcaserin hydrochloride in New Jersey.
- (m) These contacts arise out of or relate to the Plaintiff's products liability claims for Belviq causing Plaintiff's cancer.
- (n) New Jersey has an interest in adjudicating this dispute since Belviq was distributed from New Jersey, sold from New Jersey, and ultimately consumed by the Plaintiff, a New Jersey resident.

12. Eisai, Inc., along with its parent company Eisai Co., Ltd., (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Eisai"), and Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., along with its wholly owned subsidiary Arena Pharmaceuticals GmbH (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Arena") were, at all relevant

times, responsible for collective efforts in the design, research, manufacture, testing, advertisement, labeling, promotion, marketing, sale, and/or distribution of Belviq.

13. At all relevant times, Defendants Eisai and Arena were the representatives, agents, employees, co-conspirators, servants, employees, partners, joint-venturers, franchisees, or alter egos of the other Defendants Eisai and Arena and were acting within the scope of such authority in such conspiracy, service, agency, employment, partnership, joint venture and/or franchise.

14. Defendants Eisai and Arena were involved, either directly or as described in the paragraph above, in the business of designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, marketing, and introducing into interstate commerce, either directly or indirectly through third parties or related entities, numerous orthopedic products, including Belviq or lorcaserin hydrochloride, as well as monitoring and reporting adverse events.

15. Venue in this action properly lies in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Bergen County, in that the Defendant Eisai, Inc., maintains its principal place of business in Bergen County. In addition, Defendant Arena did regular business with Defendant Eisai in Bergen County arising out of the product at issue, Belviq and/or lorcaserin hydrochloride, as well as distributed Belviq that Plaintiff consumed.

16. This suit is brought under the New Jersey Products Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1 *et seq.* (“Products Liability Act”), the New Jersey Punitive Damages Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:15-5.9, *et seq.* (“Punitive Damages Act”), and the common law of the State of New Jersey to recover damages and other relief, including the costs of suit and reasonable attorneys’ and expert fees, for the injuries the Plaintiff has sustained as a result of the Defendants Eisai’s and Arena’s negligent and wrongful conduct in connection with the design, development, manufacturer, testing, packing, promoting, marketing, distributing, labeling and/or sale of the product at issue, Belviq.

## **BACKGROUND**

17. At all relevant times, Defendants Eisai and Arena were in the business of and did design, research, manufacture, test, advertise, promote, market, sell, and distribute Belviq and lorcaserin hydrochloride for chronic weight management.

18. Arena received FDA approval for Belviq, also known as lorcaserin hydrochloride, on June 27, 2012 as an adjunct to reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for chronic weight management in adult patients with a body mass index (hereinafter referred to as “BMI”) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or adult patients with a BMI greater than or equal to 27 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and at least one weight- related comorbid condition.

19. Arena received additional FDA approval for Belviq XR, an extended release tablet of lorcaserin hydrochloride, on July 15, 2016 for the same indication as Belviq (hereinafter Belviq and Belviq XR will be collectively referred to as “Belviq”).

20. Upon information and belief, Arena continued to maintain control over manufacturing responsibilities for a period of time before transitioning those responsibilities to Eisai, Inc.

21. Arena and Eisai jointly launched Belviq in the United States in 2012, with Arena manufacturing Belviq and Eisai as the exclusive distributor.

22. In 2017, Eisai purchased the global rights to develop and market Belviq from Arena.

23. Belviq is a first-in-class oral selective serotonin 5HT<sub>2c</sub> receptor agonist and is available by prescription in oral tablets at doses of 10mg taken twice daily or 20mg extended release taken once daily.

24. During the preclinical trial program, Defendants Eisai and Arena conducted a two-year carcinogenicity study in rats in which lorcaserin was identified as a non-genotoxic carcinogen inducing multiple tumor types, primarily due to an increase in mammary tumors in both sexes near clinical exposure and at all doses in female rats. There was also an increase in astrocytomas, malignant schwannomas, hepatocellular adenoma and carcinoma, skin subcutis fibroma, skin squamous carcinoma, and thyroid follicular cell adenoma in male rats. Adenocarcinoma in the lorcaserin groups demonstrated increased tumor onset, multiplicity, and lung metastases. Fibroadenoma in the lorcaserin groups also demonstrated greater incidence and multiplicity. While the study was ongoing, the FDA required bi-monthly updates due to the consistently increased incidence of tumors and mortality in the lorcaserin groups. However, in the final report the incidence of adenocarcinoma was lower in the mid- and high-dose groups than that reported at week 96 and had increased in the control group, while the incidence of fibroadenoma increased across all doses from week 96, with notable variations in the mid- and high-dose groups. Due to the apparent increase in fibroadenoma accompanying the decrease in adenocarcinoma after week 96, the FDA suspected reclassification of tumor types.

25. Arena attributed the increased incidence of tumors seen in the two-year rat study to elevated prolactin levels induced by lorcaserin in rats, which they claim was a rodent-specific phenomenon.

26. During the preclinical trial program, Arena also conducted a two-year carcinogenicity study in mice, which demonstrated an increase in malignant hepatocellular carcinoma in males and schwannoma in females. Although the dosing levels were below the clinical dose and therefore likely inadequate, these findings provide further context for potential carcinogenicity in combination with the two-year rat study results.



27. From September 2006 through February 2009, Arena conducted the Behavioral modification and Lorcaserin for Overweight and Obesity Management (BLOOM) trial, a two-year, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial involving 3,182 patients to examine the efficacy of lorcaserin in reducing body weight in the U.S. While weight reduction was seen in the first year, all treatment groups experienced weight regain during the second year. In July 2010, the results of the BLOOM trial were published in the New England Journal of Medicine (hereinafter referred to as “NEJM”). Smith S.R., et al. Multicenter, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Lorcaserin for Weight Management. N. Engl. J. Med 2010;363:245-56.

28. From December 2007 to July 2009, Arena conducted the Behavioral modification and Lorcaserin Second Study for Obesity Management (BLOSSOM) trial, a one-year randomized, placebo- controlled, double-blind, parallel arm trial involving 4,008 patients to examine the effects of lorcaserin on body weight, cardiovascular risk, and safety in the U.S. In July 2011, the results of the BLOSSOM trial were published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. Fidler, M.C., et al. A One-Year Randomized Trial of Lorcaserin for Weight Loss in Obese and Overweight Adults: the BLOSSOM trial. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2011;96:3067-3077.

29. Combined data from the BLOOM and BLOSSOM trials demonstrated only a 3.3% mean weight loss after one year with lorcaserin over that of the placebo group, which failed to meet the mean efficacy criterion of FDA’s obesity draft guidance.

30. On December 18, 2009, Arena and Eisai submitted its first New Drug Application for Belviq.

31. On September 16, 2010, the Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as “EMDAC”) met to discuss approval of Belviq based on the results of preclinical trials and the BLOOM and BLOSSOM Phase 3 clinical trials. The EMDAC

panel voted nine (9) to five (5) against approval of Belviq as the potential benefits did not outweigh the potential risks based on concerns about the preclinical carcinogenicity findings (i.e., increased mammary adenocarcinoma/fibroadenoma and brain astrocytomas in rats) and marginal weight loss demonstrated by the clinical trials.

32. On October 28, 2010, the FDA issued a Complete Response Letter (CRL) rejecting approval of Belviq. The bases for the CRL included uncertainty in diagnosis of mammary masses in rats, unresolved issues with the exposure-response relationship between lorcaserin and mammary adenocarcinoma, failure to identify a mode of action and a clear safety margin for brain astrocytoma, and marginal weight loss results.

33. In response to the CRL, Arena convened a pathology working group (hereinafter referred to as “PWG”) to blindly readjudicate the preclinical mammary tumor data in rats.

34. The CRL also requested that Arena submit the final report from the third Phase 3 trial in overweight and obese patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

35. From December 2007 to August 2010, Arena conducted the Behavioral modification and Lorcaserin for Obesity and Overweight Management in Diabetes Mellitus (BLOOM-DM) trial, a one- year, randomized, placebo-controlled trial involving 604 patients to examine the efficacy and safety of lorcaserin for weight loss in patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in the U.S. After one year, there was only a 3.1% mean weight loss with lorcaserin over that of the placebo group. In April 2012, the results of the BLOOM-DM trial were published in the journal of The Obesity Society. O’Neil, P.M., et al. Randomized Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial of Lorcaserin for Weight Loss in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: The BLOOM-DM Study. *Obesity* 2012;20:1426-1436.

36. On December 27, 2011, in response to the CRL, Arena submitted to the FDA the final report of the BLOOM-DM study and data from the PWG readjudication, as well as new studies to support their continued assertion that the increase in tumors seen in the two-year rat study was due to elevated prolactin levels induced by lorcaserin.

37. The PWG found a decreased number of adenocarcinoma and an increased number of fibroadenoma in both the control and the lorcaserin groups of the two-year rat study. For adenocarcinoma, the number decreased to a larger extent in the lorcaserin group compared to the control group, but lorcaserin still increased the incidence, tumor onset and multiplicity, and lethality of mammary adenocarcinoma, and the high-dose lorcaserin group maintained a statistically significant increase in adenocarcinomas compared to the control group. Regarding fibroadenoma, there was an increase in the incidence, tumor onset and multiplicity, and lethality across all lorcaserin dose groups compared to the control group, however these results were disregarded as irrelevant to risk of carcinoma in FDA's review of the readjudication data.

38. On May 10, 2012, a second EMDAC panel met to discuss approval of Belviq with a focus on the PWG readjudication of preclinical data to determine the potential carcinogenicity risk, lorcaserin levels in human cerebrospinal fluid to determine a safety margin for astrocytoma, and the results of the BLOOM-DM Phase 3 clinical trial to further determine efficacy. The panel voted 18 to four (4) (with one abstention) that the benefits of Belviq outweighed the risks for an overweight and obese population. The panel also recommended a post-approval assessment of risk for Belviq, with a focus on cardiovascular risk. Ultimately, the FDA required that Defendants Eisai and Arena conduct six (6) post-marketing studies, including a cardiovascular outcomes trial.

39. On June 26, 2012, in her Summary Review of Defendants Eisai's and Arena's application for approval following submission of data in response to the CRL, the FDA Deputy

Division Director, Dr. Eric Colman, indicated that the PWG's analysis addressed the concerns raised by the data in the original application, and that he did not believe Belviq posed a risk for mammary adenocarcinoma in humans. He also stated that the cerebrospinal fluid data provided an adequate safety margin for brain astrocytoma. However, regarding tumorigenic mechanism of action, Dr. Colman noted that the FDA Pharmacology/Toxicology reviewer, Dr. Fred Alavi, concluded that the prolactin studies, while supportive of a plausible role of prolactin in tumor formation, fell short of definitive proof.

40. In contrast, on May 3, 2013, Arena withdrew the application for marketing authorization for Belviq with the European Medicines Agency (hereinafter referred to as "EMA"). The EMA Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (hereinafter referred to as "CHMP") determined that Belviq was not approvable due to major objections regarding carcinogenicity and efficacy. Specifically, the CHMP found that, even with the PWG readjudication, the risk of carcinogenicity in humans needed further consideration and the overall clinical risk/benefit balance was negative in that the modest efficacy results did not outweigh safety concerns. The CHMP further stated that the increased occurrence of several tumor types in male rats was particularly concerning due to the lack of any persuasive mechanism of action that would provide assurance of safety in human use, which also undermined any discussion on exposure margins. Thus, the CHMP concluded that the clinical relevance of the tumors found in the rat study must be evaluated as part of the risk-benefit assessment.

41. From January 2014 to June 2018, Arena conducted a post-marketing trial, the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Effects of Lorcaserin in Overweight and Obese Patients – Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 61 (CAMELLIA-TIMI 61). CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter, parallel group clinical trial involving

12,000 patients conducted in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Europe, South America, Australia, and New Zealand to evaluate the risk of heart-related issues with Belviq. CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 began in 2014 and concluded in 2018.

42. The primary safety outcome of major adverse cardiovascular events showed noninferiority. The results of CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 were published in September 2018 in NEJM. Bohula, E.A., et al. Cardiovascular Safety of Lorcaserin in Overweight or Obese Patients. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 2018;379:1107-17.

43. In January of 2017, Eisai announced that it acquired all global development and marketing rights to Belviq from Arena.

44. Under the 2017 agreement between Eisai and Arena, Eisai became “solely responsible for all decision-making and implementation related to global development and submissions for regulatory approvals,” as well as global marketing rights.

45. Pursuant to the agreement between Eisai and Arena, all post-2017 regulatory approvals sought from the FDA were submitted by Eisai.

46. On January 14, 2020, the FDA issued a safety communication regarding clinical trial results showing a possible increased risk of cancer with Belviq. The FDA stated that its evaluation of the potential signal was ongoing, and a causal association was at that time uncertain.

47. On February 13, 2020, the FDA announced that Eisai had submitted a request to voluntarily withdraw Belviq from the market.

48. The FDA reported that analysis of the CAMELLIA-TIMI 61 data indicated an imbalance of cancer in patients taking Belviq that increased with treatment duration, including thyroid, colorectal, and lung cancer. Specifically, one additional cancer was observed per 470 patients treated for one year, with 462 (7.7%) Belviq patients diagnosed with 520 primary cancers

compared to 423 (7.1%) with 470 cancers in the placebo group. FDA further stated that the risks of Belviq outweigh its benefits and recommended that patients stop taking Belviq and dispose of any unused pills. FDA also instructed all health care professionals to stop prescribing Belviq and to contact their patients taking Belviq to inform them of the increased risk of cancer and ask that they stop taking Belviq.

49. Prior to applying for and obtaining approval of Belviq in 2012, Eisai and Arena knew or should have known that human consumption of Belviq was associated with significant risks of cancer.

50. Defendant possessed pre-clinical scientific studies, which evidence Eisai and Arena knew or should have known was the signal that the cancer risk needed further testing and studies prior to its introduction to the market.

51. Upon information and belief, despite cancer findings in animal carcinogenicity studies, Eisai and Arena failed to adequately conduct complete and proper testing of Belviq prior to filing their New Drug Application for Belviq.

52. Upon information and belief, from the date Defendants Eisai and Arena received FDA approval to market Belviq, Eisai and Arena devised a plan to manufacture, distribute market, and sell Belviq without adequate warnings to prescribing physicians or Plaintiff that Belviq was associated with and/or could cause cancer, presented a risk of cancer in patients who used it, and that Eisai and Arena had not adequately conducted complete and proper testing and studies of Belviq with regard to carcinogenicity.

53. Eisai and Arena's failure to disclose information that they possessed regarding failure to adequately test and study Belviq for cancer risk further rendered warnings for this medication inadequate.

**CASE SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

54. In or around September 2015, Plaintiff Rhonda Barabach was prescribed Belviq for weight loss and diet control by Dr. Robert Elliott in Appomattox, Virginia.

55. Plaintiff's physician continued to prescribe her Belviq until October 2017.

56. From September 2015 to October 2017, Plaintiff continued to take Belviq for her weight loss without knowing of the significant increased risk that Belviq could cause her to develop cancer.

57. In August 2020, Plaintiff was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

58. Plaintiff's use of Belviq caused or significantly contributed to her development of colorectal cancer, which has permanently changed her life.

59. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff had to undergo significant treatment and now requires constant and continuous medical monitoring and treatment due to the defective nature of Belviq.

60. Plaintiff could not have reasonably discovered that Belviq was the cause of her breast cancer until at least January 2020, when the FDA announced it was reviewing clinical trial data and alerted the public about a possible risk of cancer associated with Belviq based on its preliminary analysis of the clinical trial data.

**COUNT I**  
**STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT (N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1 et seq.)**  
**(Defendants Eisai and Arena)**

61. Plaintiff adopts and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing language of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further states as follows.

62. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants Eisai and Arena were/are the researchers, designers, manufacturers, testers, advertisers, promoters, marketers, packagers, labelers, sellers and/or distributors of Belviq, which is defective and unreasonably dangerous.

63. Belviq is defective in its design or formulation in that it is not reasonably fit, suitable or safe for its intended purpose and/or its foreseeable risks exceed the benefits associated with its design. Belviq is defective in design because it poses an increased risk of cancers, is more dangerous than other available drugs indicated for similar conditions and uses, and the utility of the Belviq drug does not outweigh its risks.

64. The defective condition of Belviq rendered it unreasonably dangerous and/or not reasonably safe, and Belviq was in this defective condition at the time it left the hands of Defendants Eisai and Arena. Belviq was expected to and did reach Plaintiff and her physician without substantial change in the condition in which it was designed, manufactured, labeled, sold, distributed, marketed, promoted, supplied, and otherwise released into the stream of commerce.

65. Belviq was used for its intended purposes and the product was not materially altered or modified prior to its use.

66. Belviq is defective in design because of its likelihood for, among other things, the increase of cancers in its consumers at an unreasonable rate.

67. At or before the time Belviq was released on the market and/or sold to Plaintiff, Defendants Eisai and Arena could have designed the Belviq to make it less prone to causing cancers, a technically feasible safer alternative design that would have prevented the harm Plaintiff suffered without substantially impairing the function of the drug.

68. Plaintiff was not able to discover, nor could he have discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the defective nature of Belviq. Further, in no way could Plaintiff have



known that Defendants Eisai and Arena had designed, developed, and manufactured Belviq in a way as to make the risk of harm or injury outweigh any benefits.

69. Belviq is and was being used in the Defendants Eisai's and Arena's intended manner at the time it was prescribed to Plaintiff.

70. Defendants Eisai and Arena had a duty to create a product that was not unreasonably dangerous for its normal, intended use and breached this duty.

71. Defendant Eisai and Arena knew or should have known that Belviq would be prescribed to patients and that physicians and patients were relying on them to furnish a suitable product. Further, Defendants Eisai and Arena knew or should have known that patients in whom Belviq would be used, such as Plaintiff, could be and would be affected by the defective design and composition of Belviq.

72. Defendants Eisai and Arena researched, designed, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold and distributed a defective product which, when used in its intended or reasonably foreseeable manner, created an unreasonable risk to the health of consumers, such as Plaintiff, and Defendants Eisai and Arena are therefore strictly liable for the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

73. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Eisai's and Arena's placement of Belviq into the stream of commerce and Plaintiff's use of Belviq as designed, manufactured, sold, supplied, and introduced into the stream of commerce by Defendants Eisai and Arena, Plaintiff suffered serious physical and mental injury, harm, damages and economic loss and will continue to suffer such harm, damages and economic loss in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants Eisai and Arena, and each of them, individually, jointly, and severally, and requests compensatory damages, together with costs and interest, and any further relief as the Court deems proper.

**COUNT II**  
**STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY- FAILURE TO WARN (N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1 et seq.)**  
**(Defendants Eisai and Arena)**

74. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation of this Complaint contained in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if more fully set forth herein.

75. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants Eisai and Arena designed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, distributed, and/or have recently acquired the Defendants Eisai and Arena who have designed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed Belviq as hereinabove described that was used by the Plaintiff.

76. Belviq was expected to and did reach the usual consumers, handlers, and persons coming into contact with said product without substantial change in the condition in which it was produced, manufactured, sold, distributed, and marketed by the Defendants Eisai and Arena.

77. Defendants Eisai's and Arena's duty to provide adequate warnings extends not only to consumers of its own product, but also to those persons whose doctors foreseeably rely on Defendant Eisai's and Arena's product information when prescribing a medication, even if the prescription is filled with a generic version of that prescribed drug. Defendant Eisai and Arena also had a continuing duty to warn Plaintiff and her physicians of the dangers associated with the subject product.

78. The Belviq designed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed by Defendants Eisai and Arena was defective due to inadequate warnings or instructions and/or inadequate testing as the Defendants Eisai and Arena knew or should have known that the product created a risk of serious and dangerous side effects including cancer, as well as other severe and personal injuries which are permanent and lasting in nature and the Defendant Eisai and Arena failed to adequately warn of said risk.

79. The Belviq designed, researched, manufactured, tested, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed by Defendants Eisai and Arena was defective due to inadequate post-marketing surveillance and/or warnings because, after Defendants Eisai and Arena knew or should have known of the risks of serious side effects including cancer, as well as other severe and permanent health consequences from Belviq, they failed to provide adequate warnings to users or consumers of the product, and continued to improperly advertise, market and/or promote their product, Belviq.

80. Information provided by Defendants Eisai and Arena to the medical community, consumers, and ultimately Plaintiff concerning the safety and efficacy of Belviq did not accurately reflect the serious and potentially fatal adverse events Plaintiff could suffer.

81. At all times relevant hereto, Belviq was dangerous and presented a substantial danger to consumers who were prescribed with Belviq, and these risks and dangers were known or knowable at the times of distribution and/or prescription to Plaintiff. Ordinary consumers would not have recognized the potential risks and dangers that Belviq posed to patients, because its use was specifically promoted to improve the health of such patients.

82. Had adequate warnings and instructions been provided, Plaintiff would not have been prescribed Belviq, and would not have been at risk of the harmful injuries, including but not

limited to cancers described herein. Defendants Eisai and Arena failed to provide warnings of such risks and dangers to the Plaintiff and their medical providers as described herein.

83. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's physicians knew, nor could they have learned through the exercise of reasonable care, the risks of serious injury and/or death associated with and/or caused by Belviq.

84. Defendants Eisai and Arena knew or should have known that the warnings given failed to properly warn both medical professionals and consumers of the increased risks of serious injury and/or death associated with and/or caused by Belviq.

85. Defendants Eisai and Arena deliberately concealed and did not disclose knowledge acquired after Belviq's 501(k) clearance that Belviq caused serious health issues and side effects, including cancers.

86. Defendants Eisai and Arena also engaged in an economically driven manipulation of the post-market regulatory process involving Belviq.

87. Plaintiff, individually and through her treating physicians, reasonably relied upon the skill, superior knowledge and judgment of Defendants Eisai and Arena.

88. As a direct and proximate result of Belviq's defects as described herein, Plaintiff suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has further suffered emotional trauma, harm and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a normal life, and will continue to be so diminished in the future. Furthermore, Plaintiff has lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and have medical bills, both past and future, related to care because of Belviq's defects.

89. Based on the foregoing, Defendants Eisai and Arena are liable to the Plaintiff for damages as a result of its failure to warn and/or adequately warn or instruct the Plaintiff and healthcare professionals about the increased risk of serious injury and death caused by Belviq.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants Eisai and Arena, and each of them, individually, jointly and severally, and requests compensatory damages, together with costs and interest, and any further relief as the Court deems proper.

**PUNITIVE DAMAGES UNDER COMMON LAW, NEW JERSEY PUNITIVE DAMAGES ACT (N.J.S.A. 2A:15-15-5.9 et seq.), and PRODUCT LIABILITY ACT (N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1 et seq.)**

90. Plaintiff adopts and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing language of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein and further states as follows.

91. The acts and omissions of Defendants Eisai and Arena described herein consisted of oppression, fraud, and/or malice, and were done with advance knowledge, conscious disregard of the safety of others, and/or ratification by Defendants Eisai's and Arena's officers, directors, and/or managing agents.

92. Despite this knowledge, Defendants Eisai and Arena, for financial reasons, sought to create and market a weight loss and diet control drug, and Defendants did in fact create such drug, Belviq, that had substantial and unreasonable risks and side effects of Belviq, including colorectal cancer.

93. Yet, despite having substantial information about the serious and unreasonable side effects of Belviq, Defendants Eisai and Arena intentionally and recklessly failed to adequately instruct physicians, including Plaintiff's physicians, of the serious and unreasonable side effects of Belviq, and failed to warn physicians, including Plaintiff's physician, and consumers, including Plaintiff, of the significant risks of cancers from Belviq. Further, Defendants Eisai and Arena failed to pull Belviq from the market after indications of serious,

unreasonable side effects such as cancers were prevalent among Belviq consumers, and instead unjustifiably delayed its inevitable removal until the FDA forced such in February of 2020.

94. Specifically, Defendants Eisai and Arena downplayed and recklessly disregarded their knowledge of the defective nature of Belviq's clear and unequivocal indications of cancers.

95. Defendants Eisai and Arena undertook a marketing campaign to globally market Belviq despite conducting proper testing.

96. Additionally, Defendants Eisai and Arena undertook this marketing campaign despite its own preclinical trial results showing an increased risk of tumors and cancers in rats.

97. Defendants Eisai and Arena intentionally and recklessly omitted information in the Instructions for Use to warn and instruct physicians on Belviq's increased risks for cancers.

98. Defendants Eisai and Arena downplayed, understated, and disregarded their knowledge of the serious and permanent side effects and risks associated with the use of Belviq.

99. Finally, Defendants Eisai and Arena were aware prior to marketing Belviq that there was a potential increase and/or risk of cancers.

100. Defendants Eisai and Arena recklessly failed to warn and adequately instruct physicians, including Plaintiff's physician, regarding this significant increase in cancers among Belviq users.

101. Consequently, Defendants Eisai and Arena are liable for punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Rhonda Barabach prays for judgment against Defendants Eisai and Arena, individually and collectively, jointly and severally, as follows:

- (a) Trial by jury;

- (b) Judgment against all Defendants for all compensatory allowable to Plaintiff;
- (c) Judgment against all Defendants for all other relief sought by Plaintiff under this Complaint;
- (d) For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- (e) For pre-judgment interest; and
- (f) For such further and other relief the Court deems just and equitable.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all counts and as to all issues.

Dated: June 2, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Gregory Spizer

**VSCP LAW**

Gregory S. Spizer

Attorney Identification No.: 043091998

1500 Market Street

East Tower, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Phone: (215) 960-0402

and

W. Roger Smith, III\*

Ryan J. Duplechin\*

**BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW,**

**METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.**

Post Office Box 4160

Montgomery, Alabama 36103

Phone: (334) 269-2343

Fax: (334) 954-7555

Email: Roger.Smith@BeasleyAllen.com

Email: Ryan.Duplechin@BeasleyAllen.com

*\*Pro Hac Vice Admission to be Sought*

*Counsel for Plaintiff Rhonda Barabach*

# Civil Case Information Statement

**Case Details: BERGEN | Civil Part Docket# L-003555-21**

**Case Caption:** BARABACH RHONDA VS EISAI, INC  
**Case Initiation Date:** 06/02/2021  
**Attorney Name:** GREGORY STEVEN SPIZER  
**Firm Name:** VSCP LAW  
**Address:** 1500 MARKET ST 12TH FL, EAST TOWER  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102  
**Phone:** 2159600399  
**Name of Party:** PLAINTIFF : Barabach, Rhonda  
**Name of Defendant's Primary Insurance Company**  
(if known): None

**Case Type:** PRODUCT LIABILITY  
**Document Type:** Complaint with Jury Demand  
**Jury Demand:** YES - 12 JURORS  
**Is this a professional malpractice case?** NO  
**Related cases pending:** YES  
**If yes, list docket numbers:** BERL120821  
**Do you anticipate adding any parties (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)?** NO  
**Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: Rhonda Barabach?** NO

**THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE**  
CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDIATION

**Do parties have a current, past, or recurrent relationship?** NO

**If yes, is that relationship:**

**Does the statute governing this case provide for payment of fees by the losing party?** NO

**Use this space to alert the court to any special case characteristics that may warrant individual management or accelerated disposition:**

**Do you or your client need any disability accommodations?** NO  
**If yes, please identify the requested accommodation:**

**Will an interpreter be needed?** NO  
**If yes, for what language:**

**Please check off each applicable category: Putative Class Action?** NO **Title 59?** NO **Consumer Fraud?** NO

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with *Rule 1:38-7(b)*

06/02/2021  
Dated

/s/ GREGORY STEVEN SPIZER  
Signed