



Jury: Merck Liable for Man's Heart Attack

N.J. Jury Finds Merck Liable for One of Two Former Vioxx Users' Heart Attacks

The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - A state jury found Merck & Co. liable on Wednesday for one of two former Vioxx users' heart attacks and ordered he receive \$4.5 million in damages in a closely-watched trial involving two New Jersey men.

The jury found the company failed to adequately warn both plaintiffs about the risk factors linking the now-withdrawn painkiller to heart attacks and strokes, but said the drug was only a factor in one of the men's illnesses.

The panel said the company concealed the risks of the drug for both men, but ruled that only John McDarby, 77, a retired insurance agent from Park Ridge, should receive compensation.

The verdict came after less than two days of deliberations by the jury of six women and two men.

The trial was the first dealing with plaintiffs who blamed illnesses on long-term use of the painkiller.

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