

Valsartan (Diovan[®]) 臨床試験疑惑

— 報道からの考察 —

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The Valsartan (Diovan[®]) Scandal: The view from inside journalism

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Abstract

The data manipulation in investigator-initiated trials on Novartis Pharma K.K.'s (NPKK) anti-hypertensive drug valsartan (Diovan[®]) has damaged the integrity of the Japanese science community. An NPKK employee was involved in the papers including the Jikei Heart Study published in *The Lancet*. Moreover, research teams have received more than 1.1 billion yen as unrestricted grants from the company. It was also revealed that Elsevier Japan K.K., the global publishing group which publishes *The Lancet*, participated in the promotion strategy for Diovan[®]. NPKK carried out marketing and promotional activities by using these favorable trials, so that Diovan[®] became one of its flagship products. Annual sales of Diovan[®] exceed 100 billion yen in Japan. We have to develop a critical eye on the dependency circle among researchers, the pharmaceutical industry and the medical journals.

Key words

valsartan, Novartis, *Lancet*, Jikei Heart Study, KYOTO HEART Study

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