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Health newsfeed for Friday, March 15, 2013

HEADLINE: OLDER IS BETTER?

ANCHOR LEAD: ARE YOU BETTER OFF WITH AN OLDER DIABETES DRUG?

ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

A new Johns Hopkins study led by Sonal Singh, a diabetes expert and colleagues, has shown that two newer diabetes medications marketed at Januvia and Byetta, increase the risk of inflammation of the pancreas known as pancreatitis, about 100% in those who use them. Singh comments on how this risk compares with other, older medications for diabetes.

SINGH: Older diabetes drugs such as metformin and sulfonylureas have been around longer, we know more about them . The newer drugs although they may affect a nice mechanism such as the GLP 1, there are GLP1 receptors in the pancreas, so yes, they lower glucose and they are effective at that and actually these are widely used because Byetta also promotes weight loss so it is a good agent but then they are also associated with other side effects as we discover now. :26

Singh says people who choose these newer medications should be on the watch for nausea and other signs of pancreatitis. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.