

Dear Advisory Committee:

I benefited from Lotronex when it was available. I had a section on my web site filled with letters and stories of others who also were helped by the drug and if I can fix the software problems, the site might be relaunched by Tuesday for your perusal. I'll update you if I am successful in restoring the site.

Regardless, while I benefited greatly from Lotronex, six months after my supply of the drug ran out, I developed toxic megacolon and was hospitalized for 30 days during the months of Sept.-Oct., 2001. When admitted via ambulance, I was delirious and near death's door. After efforts to save my colon failed, all but 8 inches of my large intestine was removed. Those 30 days were the most nightmarish and horrific of life. The recovery has been intense. While I am relieved of the excruciating pain that I'd lived with for years, the operation was life changing.

Now I am wondering how the recall of Lotronex affected me.

The unanswered question remains whether my urgent hospitalization and subsequent surgery as a result of toxic megacolon would have been preventable had Lotronex been available.

While I no longer need the medication, there are thousands of people who are helped by it and I hope you will restore it. I am also quoted in an FDA consumer magazine article that tells of the agony that people with IBS live with. <http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2001/401_ibs.html>

Thank you.

Hope Marcus Christensen