

Tom Perez, M.P.H.
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration, HFD-21
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Perez:

I writing regarding the upcoming meeting of April 23, 2002 at which your committee will discuss the drug Lotronex, for irritable bowel dysfunction. I urge you to consider the re-introduction of this medication. I would like to briefly tell you of my story, since I cannot attend your meeting to speak for myself.....

I have had IBS for over 30 years, since the age of 14. During that time, I have been given a variety of medications, which have largely been unsuccessful in curbing my symptoms of diarrhea. I still face the indignity of daily, constant diarrhea, cramps, and anxiety, with the accompanying limitations in my life style.

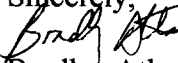
I was given Lotronex in August, 2000, and found it to be literally a "miracle drug" for me. Not only did it effectively stop the diarrhea, but it also stopped the virtual constant churning in my stomach, which I have most of my waking hours. It was like the switch was turned off.

I continued on a half-pill daily dose of Lotronex for approximately a year. It was the best year of my life, health-wise. I could work without constant anxiety, enjoyed eating for the first time in years without worry, enjoyed trips with my family.

Since I have run out of Lotronex, I have been tried on several medications, without success. These have included Bentyl, Levsin, Lomotil, Immodium, Elavil, Xanax, Calcium, and other supplements.

Though use of the internet through the IBS Self-Help Group, I realized that I was not alone. I have interacted with many, many people whose lives were changed by Lotronex.

I strongly urge you and your Committee to consider my story, as well as others, in reconsidering the introduction of Lotronex. For me, a dosage as low as a half-milligram daily was sufficient in making a great difference in my symptoms and in my life. I await your decision.

Sincerely,

Bradley Atlas