

Schering-Plough Recalls Medication for Asthma

The Schering-Plough Corporation is recalling five batches of Vanceril, an inhaled prescription medication for asthma, because some of the canisters may not contain active drug.

Schering-Plough warned today that the recall "should be considered very serious" because patients using a defective inhaler could be left more vulnerable to asthma attacks, even requiring hospitalization. No illnesses have been reported, the company said. Patients cannot tell whether they have a defective canister by looking, because the inhaler may appear to emit an aerosol spray even if that spray does not contain active drug, the company said. Recalled are five lots of "Vanceril 84 mcg double strength inhalation aerosol convenience packs." The lot numbers are: 9-DMT-157, 9-DMT-158, 9-DMT-160, 9-DMT-161 and 9-DMT-163. They were distributed in November and have an expiration date of July 2000.