

Johnson and Johnson Seeks Deal on Hip Implant Lawsuits

By Evan Zimmerman, J.D. Candidate 2020 | February 13, 2019

Johnson and Johnson and individual plaintiffs were described as [“close”](#) to reaching a deal to settle claims regarding defective implants, Bloomberg [reported](#) this week. The lawsuits relate to J&J’s Pinnacle metal-on-metal hip implants, which have faced accusations of causing several side effects, including bone erosion and tissue death. J&J has been subject to lawsuits around the country, including roughly 10,000 individual claims in Texas, of which 3,300 were announced as “close” this week to reaching a settlement. The announcement comes after J&J [settled](#) for \$120 million on deceptive marketing claims.

J&J has been under significant scrutiny in the past few years, being described as a [“litigation magnet.”](#) For example, in 2013, J&J [settled](#) claims for its ASR line of hip replacements for \$2.5 billion—a settlement that does not cover Pinnacle metal-on-metal hip replacements. It recently saw all of its patents [invalidated](#) in a patent infringement suit regarding Zytiga, a lucrative chemotherapy drug; the company is planning to appeal the decision. Most dramatically, last summer J&J was [ordered](#) to pay \$4.7 billion in a talcum powder case claiming that it hid asbestos in its talc products, a claim J&J [vehemently denies](#). A Reuters [report](#) claiming J&J had been aware of the asbestos for decades caused J&J’s [stock to fall](#) more than 10% in a single day.

Pinnacle hip implants are still being sold with different material combinations.

