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Brand name or generic?

What's the difference?

What do you know about generic drugs?

And why should you care?

Some people find that a brand medication work better than a generic or that one manufacturer of generic medication work better than another manufacturer.

So what is the explanation for this difference in effectiveness?

One explanation is that one medication dissolves in the stomach faster so that it provides a faster and/or higher blood level. This difference could come about from differences in the manufacturing process using different inert binders or coatings used to create the tablet. But the laws governing generic medications are not supposed to allow this type of variation and medications are tested for this.

Another explanation is that all generic drugs are not created equally though it is often thought they are. The fact is that generic drugs by law are only required to contain 80%-125% of the stated dosage on average sampling. This means that a medication designated to have 10mg of medication may in fact have 8mg or even 12.5mg of medication. This would certainly account for why one might be more effective than another.

So, when transitioning from brand medication to generic, it might make sense to stay with the same manufacturer of the original medication to be most likely to obtain a similar response from the new medication.

Check with your pharmacist if you have any questions during this transition.