



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
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April 11, 2007

Chaim Vanek, M.D.  
P.O. Box 8485  
Portland, OR 97207

RE: Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A-77368  
Case No. 06-2002-141688

### Public Letter of Reprimand

On November 12, 2004, an Accusation was filed against you regarding your care and treatment of two patients who were seen in 2002, while you were employed by Edward L. Tobinick, M.D., Inc. at the Institute for Neurological Research. You gave these two patients one injection each of etanercept (a tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  inhibitor that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for several uses, including in cases of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases) to relieve pain resulting from disk injury. The use of etanercept required that a physician and surgeon take particular care with patients who may have infections or who are at high risk of developing infections. Although no medical harm came to either of these two patients as a result of your care and treatment, you did not exercise that extra degree of care by:

- (1) Failing to measure the body temperature or to perform a skin test for tuberculosis in either patient before injecting them with etanercept, although neither patient had active tuberculosis.
- (2) Failing to assure that diabetes mellitus of patient I.F. was under control by measuring Hemoglobin A<sub>1C</sub>.

Pursuant to the authority of the California Business and Professions Code section 2233, you are hereby issued this Public Letter of Reprimand by the Medical Board of California with the expectation that you have addressed the causes for this conduct, and that you have taken steps to ensure that this conduct will not be repeated.

Cesar A. Aristeiguieta, M.D.  
President  
Division of Medical Quality