

## J&J loses baby powder case; ordered to pay \$110 mn to cancer victim

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**According to her claim, the victim said that she developed cancer after four decades of using talc-containing products produced by J&J, including J&J's Baby Powder and Shower to Shower Powder**



Bringing shock to millions of consumers, a Missouri court ordered Johnson and Johnson jury to pay over \$110 million to a Virginia woman who says she developed ovarian cancer after decades of using its talc-based products for feminine hygiene. There are nearly 2,400 lawsuits accusing J&J of not adequately warning consumers about the cancer risks of talc-based products including its well-known Johnson's Baby Powder.

The jury awarded \$5.4 million in compensatory damages and said J&J was 99 percent at fault while talc supplier Imerys was just 1 percent. It awarded punitive damages of \$105 million against J&J and \$50,000 against Imerys.

This verdict came in a lawsuit against J&J and talc supplier Imerys Talc by Lois Slemple, a resident of Virginia who is currently undergoing chemotherapy after her ovarian cancer initially diagnosed in 2012 returned and spread to her liver. According to her claim, Slemple said that she developed cancer after four decades of using talc-containing products produced by J&J, including J&J's Baby Powder and Shower to Shower Powder.

"Once again we've shown that these companies ignored the scientific evidence and continue to deny their responsibilities to the women of America," Ted Meadows, a lawyer for Slemple and other plaintiffs, said in a statement.

J&J said that though they sympathized with the women they are planning higher appeal to safeguard the baby powder. "We are preparing for additional trials this year and we continue to defend the safety of Johnson's Baby Powder," J&J said.

The verdict came after J&J secured its first trial win in the Missouri litigation, when a jury in March sided with the company in a lawsuit by a Tennessee woman who said she developed cancer after using Baby Powder.

That verdict broke a three-trial winning streak by plaintiffs that began with a verdict in February 2016 in which a jury awarded \$72 million to the family of a woman who died from ovarian cancer.

In May 2016, another jury awarded \$55 million to a woman who said J&J's talc-powder products caused her to develop cancer. A third jury hit J&J and Imerys with a \$70 million verdict in October.