

Important News For Seniors With Arthritis And High Blood Pressure

Repeat Study Confirms CELEBREX® Associated With Less Elevated Blood Pressure And Swelling

(NAPS)—The 18 million hypertensive seniors with arthritis will be interested in the results of a new study presented at the recent American Geriatric Society (AGS) annual meeting in Chicago on May 11, 2001. The six-week safety study is the second to compare the differences in cardiorenal effects between the widely popular arthritis treatments, CELEBREX® (celecoxib capsules) and Vioxx®, drugs known as COX-2 specific inhibitors.

The data from this newly released study confirm those of an earlier study published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Therapeutics*. The data demonstrate that blood pressure changes (specifically increases in systolic blood pressure) and leg and ankle swelling (edema) were significantly greater in elderly hypertensive patients receiving Vioxx 25 mg a day than those receiving CELEBREX 200 mg a day. These are the most commonly prescribed doses of both products. There were no differences between patient groups in diastolic blood pressure. The study was sponsored by Pharmacia and Pfizer Inc., the co-marketers of CELEBREX.

Significant increases in blood pressure occurred in approximately 15 percent of patients taking Vioxx versus 7 percent of those taking CELEBREX. Additionally, 8 percent of patients taking Vioxx experienced significant increases in swelling versus 5 percent of patients taking CELEBREX. "When you examine this large population of people, those with arthritis and high blood pressure, it becomes clear that physicians must consider the effects of a drug on all body systems and prescribe accordingly," said William White, MD, professor of medicine and chief, section of hypertension and clinical pharmacology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. "This replicate study provides compelling evidence that in older, hypertensive patients not all COX-2 specific inhibitors act the same."

Arthritis and hypertension are the first and second most common



chronic conditions affecting 50 and 40 percent of adults age 65 years and older respectively. An estimated 43 million Americans—nearly one out of every six people—suffer from arthritis. Of those, approximately 18 million (42 percent) also have hypertension. Safety in the cardiovascular and renal systems is important for physicians to consider when choosing a therapy for their arthritis patients.

CELEBREX is the only COX-2 specific inhibitor approved for osteoarthritis (OA) and adult rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

CELEBREX should not be taken by patients who have aspirin-sensitive asthma or allergic reactions to aspirin or other arthritis medicines or certain sulfa drugs called sulfonamides, or who are in their third trimester of pregnancy. As with all NSAIDs, serious GI tract ulcerations can occur without warning symptoms. Physicians and patients should remain alert to the signs and symptoms of GI bleeding. CELEBREX does not affect platelet function and therefore should not be used for cardiovascular prophylaxis. As with all NSAIDs, CELEBREX® should be used with caution in patients with fluid retention, hypertension, or heart failure. In clinical studies the most common side effects of CELEBREX were dyspepsia, diarrhea and abdominal pain, which were generally mild to moderate.

For complete prescribing information on Celebrex, visit www.celebrex.com or call toll-free 888-735-3214.