

For the use only of a Registered Medical Practitioner or a Hospital or a Laboratory

Celecoxib Capsules

CELEBREX®

- 1. GENERIC NAME**
Celecoxib Capsules
- 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**
Each hard gelatin capsule contains 100 mg or 200 mg celecoxib.
List of Excipients
Capsules (100 mg/200 mg): Lactose Monohydrate, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Povidone, Croscarmellose Sodium and Magnesium Stearate.
Colour used in 100 mg and 200 mg capsules shell is titanium dioxide
All strengths/presentations mentioned in this document might not be available in the market.

- 3. DOSAGE FORM AND STRENGTH**
Hard Gelatin Capsules 100 mg and 200 mg

- 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

4.1 Therapeutic Indication

Celebrex is indicated in adults for the treatment of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, management of acute pain and primary dysmenorrhea.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

General Dosing Instructions

Carefully consider the potential benefits and risks of Celecoxib and other treatment options before deciding to use Celecoxib. Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals (see section 4.4).
These doses can be given without regard to timing of meals.

Osteoarthritis (OA)

For OA, the dosage is 200 mg per day administered as a single dose or as 100 mg twice daily.

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

For RA, the dosage is 100 mg to 200 mg twice daily.

Management of Acute Pain and Treatment of Primary Dysmenorrhea

For management of acute pain and treatment of primary dysmenorrhea, the dosage is 400 mg initially, followed by an additional 200 mg dose if needed on the first day. On subsequent days, the recommended dose is 200 mg twice daily as needed.

Special populations

Hepatic Impairment

In patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B), reduce the dose by 50%. The use of Celecoxib in patients with severe hepatic impairment is not recommended (see sections 4.4 and 5.3).

Poor Metabolizers of CYP2C9 Substrates

In adults who are poor metabolizers or suspected to be poor CYP2C9 metabolizers (i.e., CYP2C9*3), based on genotype or previous history/experience with other CYP2C9 substrates (such as warfarin and phenytoin), initiate Celecoxib with half of the lowest recommended dose.

Geriatric Use

Elderly patients, compared to younger patients, are at greater risk for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)-associated serious cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and/or renal adverse reactions. If the anticipated benefit for the elderly patient outweighs these potential risks, start dosing at the low end of the dosing range, and monitor patients for adverse effects (see section 4.4).

Of the total number of patients who received Celecoxib in pre-approved clinical trials, more than 3,300 were 65-74 years of age, while approximately 1,300 additional patients were 75 years and over. No substantial differences in effectiveness were observed between these subjects and younger subjects. In clinical studies comparing renal function as measured by the glomerular filtration rate (GFR), blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine, and platelet function as measured by bleeding time and platelet aggregation, no results were not different between elderly and young volunteers. However, as with other NSAIDs, including those that selectively inhibit cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), there have been more spontaneous post-marketing reports of fatal GI events and acute renal failure in the elderly than in younger patients (see section 4.4).

Renal Impairment

Celecoxib is not recommended in patients with severe renal insufficiency (see sections 4.4 and 5.3).

4.3 Contraindications

Celecoxib is contraindicated in the following patients:

- Known hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphylactic reactions and serious skin reactions) to celecoxib, or any components of the drug product (see section 4.4).
- History of asthma, urticaria, or other allergic-type reactions after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs. See also warnings for aspirin-induced reactions to NSAIDs, have been reported in such patients (see section 4.4).
- In the setting of CABG surgery (see section 4.4).
- In patients who have demonstrated allergic-type reactions to sulfonamides (see section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events

Clinical trials of several cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) selective and nonselective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction (MI) and stroke, which can be fatal. Based on comparative data, it is unclear that the risk for CV thrombotic events is similar for all NSAIDs. The relative increase in serious CV thrombotic events over baseline conferred by NSAID use appears to be similar to those with and without known CV disease or risk factors for CV disease. However, patients with known CV disease or risk factors had a higher absolute incidence of excess serious CV thrombotic events, due to their increased baseline rate. Some observational studies found that this increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events began as early as the first weeks of treatment. The increase in CV thrombotic risk has been observed consistently at higher doses.

In the APC (Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib) trial, there was about a threefold increased risk of the composite endpoint of cardiovascular death, MI, or stroke for the Celecoxib 200 mg twice daily treatment arm compared to placebo. The increases in Celecoxib dose group versus placebo-treated patients were mainly due to an increased incidence of myocardial infarction (see section 5.2).

A randomized controlled trial entitled the Prospective Randomized Evaluation of Celecoxib Integrated Safety vs. Ibuprofen or Naproxen (PRECISION) was conducted to evaluate the relative cardiovascular risk of a COX-2 inhibitor, celecoxib, compared to the non-selective NSAIDs naproxen and ibuprofen. Celecoxib 100 mg twice daily was non-inferior to naproxen 375 to 500 mg twice daily and ibuprofen 600 to 800 mg three times daily for the 26 endpoints and/or heart failure. In the overall population (APTC), which consists of cardiovascular death (including hemorrhagic death), non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke (see section 5.2). To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event in NSAID-treated patients, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should be alerted for development of such events, throughout the entire treatment course, even in the absence of previous CV symptoms. Patients should be informed about the symptoms of serious CV events and the steps to take if they occur.

There is no consistent evidence that concurrent use of aspirin mitigates the increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events associated with NSAID use. The concurrent use of aspirin and an NSAID, such as celecoxib, increases the risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) events (see section 4.4).

Status Post Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery

Two large, controlled clinical trials of a COX-2 selective NSAID for the treatment of pain in the first 10 to 14 days following CABG surgery found an increased incidence of myocardial infarction and stroke. NSAIDs are contraindicated in the setting of CABG (see section 4.3).

Post-MI Patients

Observational studies conducted in the Danish National Registry have demonstrated that patients treated with NSAIDs in the post-MI period were at increased risk of reinfarction, CV-related death, and all-cause mortality beginning in the first week of treatment. In this same cohort, the incidence of death in the first year post-MI was 20 per 100 person years in NSAID-treated patients compared to 12 per 100 person years in non-NSAID exposed patients. Although the absolute rate of death declined somewhat after the first year post-MI, the increased relative risk of death in NSAID users persisted at least up to 4 years post-MI.

Avoid the use of Celecoxib in patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events. If Celecoxib is used in patients with a recent MI, monitor patients for signs of cardiac ischemia.

Gastrointestinal (GI) Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

NSAIDs, including celecoxib cause serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse effects including inflammation, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, or large intestine, which can be fatal. These symptoms, in patients treated with Celecoxib, only one in five patients who develop a serious upper GI adverse event on NSAID therapy is symptomatic. Upper GI ulcers, gross bleeding, or perforation caused by NSAIDs occurred in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3 to 6 months, and in about 2% to 4% of patients treated for one year. However, even short-term NSAID therapy is not without risk.

Risk Factors for GI Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

Patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding who used NSAIDs had a greater than 10-fold increased risk for developing a GI bleed compared to patients without these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk of GI bleeding in patients treated with NSAIDs include longer duration of NSAID therapy; concomitant use of oral corticosteroids, antiplatelet drugs (such as aspirin), anticoagulants, or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs); smoking; use of alcohol; older age; and poor general health status. Most postmarketing reports of fatal GI events occurred in elderly or debilitated patients. Additionally, patients with advanced liver disease and/or coagulopathy are at increased risk for GI bleeding.

Complicated and symptomatic ulceration was noted in 7.8% of patients for all patients in the CLASS trial, and 2.19% for the subgroup on low-dose ASA. Patients 65 years of age and older had an incidence of 1.40% at nine months, 3.06% when also taking ASA (see section 5.2).

Strategies to Minimize the GI Risks in NSAID-treated patients:

- Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest possible duration.
- Avoid administration of more than one NSAID at a time.
- Avoid use in patients at higher risk unless benefits are expected to outweigh the increased risk of bleeding. For such patients, as well as those with active GI bleeding, consider alternate therapies other than NSAIDs.
- Remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during NSAID therapy.
- If a serious GI adverse event is suspected, promptly initiate evaluation and treatment, and discontinue Celecoxib until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out.
- In the setting of concomitant use of low-dose aspirin for cardiac prophylaxis, monitor patients more closely for evidence of GI bleeding (see section 4.5).

Hepatotoxicity

Elevations of alanine transaminase (ALT) or aspartate transaminase (AST) (three or more times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) have been reported in approximately 1% of NSAID-treated patients in clinical trials. In addition, rare, sometimes fatal cases of liver failure, including fulminant hepatitis, liver necrosis, and hepatic failure have been reported. Elevations of ALT or AST (less than three times ULN) may occur in up to 15% of patients treated with NSAIDs including celecoxib.

In controlled clinical trials of Celecoxib, the incidence of borderline elevations (greater than or equal to 1.2 times and less than 3 times the upper 5% of normal) of liver associated enzymes was 6% for Celecoxib and 5% for placebo, and approximately 0.2% of patients taking Celecoxib and 0.3% of inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and "flu-like" symptoms). If clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifestations occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash), discontinue Celecoxib immediately, and perform a clinical evaluation of the patient.

Hypertension

NSAIDs, including Celecoxib, can lead to new onset of hypertension or worsening of preexisting hypertension, either of which may contribute to the increased incidence of CV events. Patients taking antihypertensive converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, thiazide diuretics or loop diuretics may have impaired response to these therapies when taking NSAIDs (see section 4.5). See section 5.2 for additional blood pressure data for Celecoxib.

Monitor blood pressure (BP) during the initiation of NSAID treatment and throughout the course of therapy.

Heart Failure and Edema

The Coxib and traditional NSAID Trialists' Collaboration meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials demonstrated an approximately two-fold increase in hospitalizations for heart failure in celecoxib-treated patients and nonselective NSAID-treated patients compared to placebo-treated patients. In a Danish National Registry study of patients with heart failure, NSAID use increased the risk of MI, hospitalization for heart failure, and death.

Additionally, fluid retention and edema have been observed in some patients treated with NSAIDs. Use of celecoxib may blunt the CV effects of several therapeutic agents used to treat these medical conditions (e.g., diuretics, ACE inhibitors, or angiotensin receptor blockers [ARBs]) (see section 4.5).

In the CLASS study (see section 5.1), the Kaplan-Meier cumulative rates at 9 months of peripheral edema in patients on Celecoxib 400 mg twice daily (4-fold and 2-fold the recommended OLA and RA doses, respectively), ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily and diclofenac 75 mg twice daily were 4.5%, 6.9% and 4.7%, respectively.

Avoid the use of Celecoxib in patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure. If Celecoxib is used in patients with severe heart failure, monitor patients for signs of worsening heart failure.

Renal Toxicity and Hyperkalemia

Renal Toxicity
Long-term administration of NSAIDs has resulted in renal papillary necrosis and other renal injury.

Renal toxicity has also been seen in patients in whom renal prostaglandins have a compensatory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients, administration of an NSAID may cause a dose-dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, which may precipitate overt renal decompensation. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, dehydration/hypovolemia, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics, ACE-inhibitors or the ARBs, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state.

No information is available from controlled clinical studies regarding the use of Celecoxib in patients with advanced renal disease. The renal effects of Celecoxib may hasten the progression of renal dysfunction in patients with preexisting renal disease.

Correct volume status in dehydrated or hypovolemic patients prior to initiating Celecoxib. Monitor renal function in patients with renal or hepatic impairment, heart failure, dehydration, or hypovolemia during use of Celecoxib (see section 4.5). Avoid the use of Celecoxib in patients with advanced renal disease unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening renal function. If Celecoxib is used in patients with advanced renal disease, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function.

Hyperkalemia

Increases in serum potassium concentration, including hyperkalemia, have been reported with use of NSAIDs, even in some patients without renal impairment. In patients with normal renal function, these effects have been attributed to a hyporeninemic-hypoadosteronism state.

Anaphylactic Reactions

Celecoxib has been associated with anaphylactic reactions in patients with and without known hypersensitivity to celecoxib and in patients with aspirin sensitive asthma. Celecoxib is a sulfonamide and both NSAIDs and sulfonamides may cause allergic type reactions including anaphylactic symptoms and life-threatening or less severe asthmatic episodes in certain susceptible people (see sections 4.3 and 4.4).

Exacerbation of Asthma Related to Aspirin Sensitivity

A subpopulation of patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma which may include chronic rhinosinusitis complicated by nasal polyps; severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm; and/or intolerance to aspirin and other NSAIDs. Because cross-reactivity between aspirin and other NSAIDs has been reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, Celecoxib is contraindicated in patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity (see section 4.3). When Celecoxib is used in patients with preexisting asthma (without known aspirin sensitivity), monitor patients for changes in the signs and symptoms of asthma.

Serious Skin Reactions

Serious skin reactions have occurred following treatment with Celecoxib, including erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), and epidermal necrolysis (TEN). Signs and symptoms of these events with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), and acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP). These serious events may occur without warning and can be fatal.

Inform patients about the signs and symptoms of serious skin reactions, and to discontinue the use of Celecoxib at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity. Celecoxib is contraindicated in patients with previous serious skin reactions to NSAIDs (see section 4.3).

Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)

Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) has been reported in patients taking NSAIDs such as Celecoxib. Symptoms of these events have been fatal or life-threatening. DRESS typically, although not exclusively, presents with fever, rash, lymphadenopathy, and/or facial swelling. Other clinical manifestations may include hepatitis, nephritis, hematological abnormalities, myocarditis, or myositis. Sometimes symptoms of DRESS may resemble an acute viral infection. Eosinophilia is often present. Because this disorder is variable in its presentation, other organ systems not noted here may be involved. It is important to note that early manifestations of hypersensitivity, such as fever or lymphadenopathy, may be present even though rash is not evident. If such signs or symptoms are present, discontinue Celecoxib and evaluate the patient immediately.

Fetal Toxicity

Premature Closure of Fetal Ductus Arteriosus

Avoid use of NSAIDs, including Celecoxib, in pregnant women at about 30 weeks gestation and later. NSAIDs, including Celecoxib, can cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus at approximately this gestational age.

Oligohydramnios/Neonatal Renal Impairment

Celecoxib is contraindicated at about 20 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy may cause renal dysfunction leading to oligohydramnios and, in some cases, neonatal renal impairment. These adverse outcomes are seen, on average, after days to weeks of treatment, although oligohydramnios has been infrequently reported as soon as 48 hours after NSAID initiation. Oligohydramnios is often reversible with discontinuation. Complications of prolonged oligohydramnios may, for example, include limb contractures and delayed lung maturation. In some postmarketing cases of impaired neonatal renal function, invasive procedures such as exchange transfusion or dialysis were necessary.

If NSAID treatment is necessary between about 20 weeks and 30 weeks gestation, limit Celecoxib use to the lowest effective dose and shortest duration possible. Consider ultrasound monitoring of amniotic fluid if Celecoxib treatment extends beyond 48 hours. Discontinue Celecoxib if oligohydramnios occurs and follow up according to clinical practice (see section 5.3).

Hematological Toxicity

Anemia has occurred in NSAID-treated patients. This may be due to occult or gross blood loss, fluid retention, or an incompletely described effect on erythropoiesis. If a patient treated with Celecoxib has any signs or symptoms of anemia, monitor hemoglobin or hematocrit.

In controlled clinical trials the incidence of anemia was 0.6% with Celecoxib and 0.4% with placebo. Patients on long-term treatment with Celecoxib should have their hemoglobin or hematocrit checked if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia or blood loss.

NSAIDs, including Celecoxib, may increase the risk of bleeding events. Comorbid conditions such as coagulation disorders or concomitant use of warfarin, other anticoagulants, antiplatelet drugs (e.g., aspirin), SSRIs and serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) may increase this risk. Monitor these patients (see section 4.5).

Masking of Inflammation and Fever

The pharmacological activity of Celecoxib in reducing inflammation, and possibly fever, may diminish the utility of diagnostic signs in detecting infections.

Laboratory Monitoring

Because serious GI bleeding, hepatotoxicity, and renal injury can occur without warning symptoms or signs, consider monitoring patients on long-term NSAID treatment with a CBC and a chemistry profile periodically (see section 4.4).

In controlled clinical trials, elevated BUN occurred more frequently in patients receiving Celecoxib compared with patients on placebo. This laboratory abnormality was also seen in patients who received comparator NSAIDs in these studies. The clinical significance of this abnormality has not been established.

Drugs Interactions

See Table 1 for clinically significant drug interactions with celecoxib.

Table 1: Clinically Significant Drug Interactions with Celecoxib

Drugs That Interfere with Hemostasis

Clinical Impact: Celecoxib and anticoagulants such as warfarin have a synergistic effect on bleeding. The concomitant use of Celecoxib and anticoagulants have an increased risk of serious bleeding compared to the use of either drug alone.

Serotonin release by platelets plays an important role in hemostasis. Case-control and cohort epidemiological studies showed that concomitant use of drugs that interfere with serotonin reuptake and an NSAID may potentiate the risk of bleeding more than an NSAID alone.

Intervention: Monitor patients with concomitant use of Celecoxib with anticoagulants (e.g., warfarin), antiplatelet drugs (e.g., aspirin), SSRIs, and SNRIs for signs of bleeding (see section 4.4).

Aspirin

Clinical Impact: Controlled clinical studies showed that the concomitant use of NSAIDs and analgesic doses of aspirin does not produce any greater therapeutic effect than the use of NSAIDs alone. In a clinical study, the concomitant use of an NSAID and aspirin was associated with a significantly increased incidence of GI adverse reactions as compared to use of the NSAID alone (see section 4.4).

In two studies in healthy volunteers, and in patients with ARBs and established heart disease, celecoxib (200 mg to 400 mg daily) has demonstrated a lack of interference with the cardioprotective antiplatelet effect of aspirin (100 mg to 325 mg).

Intervention: Concomitant use of Celecoxib and analgesic doses of aspirin is not generally recommended because of the increased risk of bleeding (see section 4.4). Celecoxib is not a substitute for low dose aspirin for cardiovascular protection.

ACE Inhibitors, Angiotensin Receptor Blockers, and Beta-Blockers

Clinical Impact: NSAIDs may diminish the antihypertensive effect ACE inhibitors, ARBs or beta-blockers (including propranolol).

In patients who are elderly, volume-depleted (including those on diuretic therapy), or have renal impairment, co-administration of an NSAID with ACE inhibitors or ARBs may result in deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure. These effects are usually reversible.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and ACE-inhibitors, ARBs, or beta blockers, monitor blood pressure to ensure that the desired blood pressure is obtained.

During concomitant use of Celecoxib and ACE-inhibitors or ARBs in patients who are elderly, volume-depleted, or have impaired renal function, monitor for signs of worsening renal function (see section 4.4).

When these drugs are administered concomitantly, patients should be adequately hydrated. Assess renal function at the beginning of the concomitant treatment and periodically thereafter.

Diuretics

Clinical Impact: Clinical studies, as well as post-marketing observations, showed that NSAIDs reduced the natriuretic effect of loop diuretics (e.g., furosemide) and thiazide diuretics in some patients. This effect has been attributed to the NSAID inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib with diuretics, observe patients for signs of worsening renal function, in addition to assuring diuretic efficacy including antihypertensive effects (see section 4.4).

Digoxin

Clinical Impact: The concomitant use of Celecoxib with digoxin has been reported to increase the serum concentration and prolong the half-life of digoxin.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and digoxin, monitor serum digoxin levels.

Lithium

Clinical Impact: NSAIDs have produced elevations in plasma lithium levels and reductions in renal lithium clearance. The mean minimum lithium concentration increased 15%, and the renal clearance decreased by approximately 20%. This effect has been attributed to NSAID inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and lithium, monitor patients for signs of lithium toxicity.

Methotrexate

Clinical Impact: Concomitant use of NSAIDs and methotrexate may increase the risk of methotrexate toxicity (e.g., neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, renal dysfunction). Celecoxib has no effect on methotrexate pharmacokinetics.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and methotrexate, monitor patients for methotrexate toxicity.

Cyclosporine

Clinical Impact: Concomitant use of Celecoxib and cyclosporine may increase cyclosporine's nephrotoxicity.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and cyclosporine, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function.

NSAIDs and Salicylates

Clinical Impact: Concomitant use of Celecoxib with other NSAIDs or salicylates (e.g., diflunisal, salsalate) increases the risk of GI bleeding, with little or no increase in efficacy (see section 4.4).

Intervention: The concomitant use of Celecoxib with other NSAIDs or salicylates is not recommended.

Pemetrexed

Clinical Impact: Concomitant use of Celecoxib and pemetrexed may increase the risk of pemetrexed-associated myelosuppression, renal, and GI toxicity.

Intervention: During concomitant use of Celecoxib and pemetrexed, in patients with renal impairment whose creatinine clearance ranges from 45 to 79 mL/min, monitor for myelosuppression, renal and GI toxicity.

NSAIDs with short elimination half-lives (e.g., diclofenac, indomethacin) should be avoided for a period of two days before, the day of, and two days following administration of pemetrexed.

In the absence of data regarding potential interaction between pemetrexed and NSAIDs with longer half-lives (e.g., meloxicam, nabumetone), patients taking these NSAIDs should interrupt dosing for at least five days before, the day of, and two days following pemetrexed administration.

CYP2C9 Inhibitors or Inducers

Clinical Impact: Celecoxib metabolism is predominantly mediated via inhibition of P450 CYP2C9 in the liver. Co-administration of celecoxib with drugs that are known to inhibit CYP2C9 (e.g., fluconazole) may enhance the exposure and toxicity of celecoxib whereas co-administration with CYP2C9 inducers (e.g., rifampin) may lead to compromised efficacy of celecoxib.

Intervention: Evaluate each patient's medical history when consideration is given to prescribing celecoxib. A dosage adjustment may be warranted when celecoxib is administered with CYP2C9 inhibitors or inducers (see section 5.3).

CYP2D6 Substrates

Clinical Impact: In vitro studies indicate that celecoxib, although not a substrate, is an inhibitor of CYP2D6. Therefore, there is a potential for an in vivo drug interaction with drugs that are metabolized by CYP2D6 (e.g., atomoxetine), and celecoxib may enhance the exposure and toxicity of these drugs.

Intervention: Evaluate each patient's medical history when consideration is given to prescribing celecoxib. A dosage adjustment may be warranted when celecoxib is administered with CYP2D6 substrates (see section 5.3).

Corticosteroids

Clinical Impact: Concomitant use of corticosteroids with Celecoxib may increase the risk of GI ulceration or bleeding.

Intervention: Monitor patients with concomitant use of Celecoxib with corticosteroids for signs of bleeding (see section 4.4).

Drug Interaction Studies

In vitro studies indicate that celecoxib is not an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 2C9, 2C19 or 3A4.

In vivo studies have shown the following:

Aspirin

When NSAIDs were administered with aspirin, the protein binding of NSAIDs were reduced, although the clearance of free NSAID was not altered. The clinical significance of this interaction is not known. See Table 1 for clinically significant drug interactions of NSAIDs with aspirin.

Lithium

In a study conducted in healthy subjects, mean steady-state lithium plasma levels increased approximately 17% in subjects receiving lithium 450 mg twice daily with Celecoxib 200 mg twice daily as compared to subjects receiving lithium alone.

Fluconazole

- Renal Toxicity and Hyperkalemia (see section 4.4)
- Anaphylactic Reactions (see section 4.4)
- Serious Skin Reactions (see section 4.4)
- Hematologic Toxicity (see section 4.4)

Clinical Trials Experience
Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. The adverse reaction information from clinical trials does, however, provide a basis for identifying the adverse events that appear to be related to drug use and for approximating rates. Of the Celecoxib-treated patients in the pre-marketing controlled clinical trials, approximately 4,250 were patients with OA, approximately 2,100 were patients with RA, and approximately 1,050 were patients with post-surgical pain. More than 8,500 patients received a total daily dose of Celecoxib of 200 mg (100 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily) or more. Approximately 3,900 patients received Celecoxib at these doses for 6 months or more; approximately 2,300 of these have received it for 1 year or more and 124 of these have received it for 2 years or more.

Pre-marketing Controlled Arthritis Trials
Table 2 lists all adverse events, regardless of causality, occurring in 2% of patients receiving Celecoxib from 12 controlled studies conducted in patients with OA or RA that included a placebo and/or a positive control group. Since these 12 trials were of different durations, and patients in the trials may not have been exposed for the same duration of time, these percentages do not capture cumulative rates of occurrence.

Table 2. Adverse Events Occurring in ≥2% of Celecoxib Patients from Pre-marketing Controlled Arthritis Trials

	CBX N=4146	Placebo N=1864	NAP N=1366	DCF N=387	IBU N=345
Gastrointestinal					
Abdominal Pain	4.1%	2.8%	7.7%	9.0%	9.0%
Diarrhea	5.8%	3.8%	5.3%	9.3%	5.8%
Dyspepsia	8.8%	6.2%	12.2%	10.9%	12.8%
Flatulence	2.2%	1.0%	3.6%	4.1%	3.5%
Nausea	3.5%	4.2%	6.0%	3.4%	6.7%
Body as a Whole					
Back Pain	2.8%	3.6%	2.2%	2.6%	0.9%
Peripheral Edema	1.1%	2.1%	1.0%	2.1%	3.2%
Injury-Accidental	2.9%	2.3%	3.0%	2.6%	3.2%
Central, Peripheral Nervous System					
Dizziness	2.0%	1.7%	2.6%	1.3%	2.3%
Headache	15.8%	20.2%	14.5%	15.5%	15.4%
Psychiatric					
Insomnia	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%	1.3%	1.4%
Respiratory					
Pharyngitis					
Rhinitis	2.3%	1.1%	1.7%	1.6%	2.8%
Sinusitis	2.0%	1.3%	2.4%	2.3%	0.6%
Upper Respiratory Infection	5.0%	4.3%	4.0%	5.4%	5.8%
Skin					
Rash	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	1.3%	1.2%

CBX = Celecoxib 100 mg to 200 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily;
NAP = Naproxen 500 mg twice daily;
DCF = Diclofenac 75 mg twice daily;
IBU = Ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily.

In placebo- or active-controlled clinical trials, the discontinuation rate due to adverse events was 7.1% for patients receiving Celecoxib and 6.1% for patients receiving placebo. Among the most common reasons for discontinuation due to adverse events in the Celecoxib treatment groups were dyspepsia and abdominal pain (cited as reasons for discontinuation in 0.8% and 0.7% of Celecoxib patients, respectively). Among patients receiving placebo, 0.6% discontinued due to dyspepsia and 0.6% withdrew due to abdominal pain.

The following adverse reactions occurred in 0.1% to 1.9% of patients treated with Celecoxib (100 mg to 200 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily):

Gastrointestinal: Constipation, diverticulitis, dysphagia, eructation, esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastroesophageal reflux, hemorrhoids, intestinal melena, dry mouth, stomatitis, tenesmus, vomiting

Cardiovascular: Aggravated hypertension, angina pectoris, coronary artery disorder, myocardial infarction

General: Hypersensitivity, allergic reaction, chest pain, cyst NOS, edema generalized, face edema, fatigue, fever, hot flashes, influenza-like symptoms, pain, peripheral pain

Central/peripheral nervous system: Leg cramps, hypertonia, hypoesthesia, migraine, paresthesia, vertigo

Hearing and vestibular: Deafness, tinnitus

Heart rate and rhythm: Palpitation, tachycardia

Liver and biliary: Hepatic enzyme increased (including SGOT increased, SGPT increased)

Metabolic and nutritional: Blood urea nitrogen (BUN) increased, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) increased, hypokalemia, hypocalcemia, hypokalemia, NPN increased, uremia increased, alkaline phosphatase increased, weight increased

Musculoskeletal: Arthralgia, arthritis, myalgia, myositis, tendinitis

Platelets (bleeding or clotting): Echinymosis, epistaxis, thrombocythemia

Psychiatric: Anorexia, anxiety, appetite increased, depression, nervousness, somnolence

Hemic: Anemia

Respiratory: Bronchitis, bronchospasm, bronchospasm aggravated, cough, dyspnea, laryngitis, pneumonia

Skin and appendages: Alopecia, dermatitis, photosensitivity reaction, pruritus, rash erythematous, rash maculopapular, skin disorder, skin dry, sweating increased, urticaria

Application site disorders: Cellulitis, dermatitis contact

Urogenital: Albuminuria, cystitis, dysuria, hematuria, micturition frequency, renal calculus

The following serious adverse events (causality not evaluated) occurred in <0.1% of patients:

Cardiovascular: Syncope, congestive heart failure, ventricular fibrillation, pulmonary embolism, cerebrovascular accident, peripheral gangrene, thrombophlebitis

Gastrointestinal: Intestinal obstruction, intestinal perforation, gastritis, hemorrhoids, bleeding, colitis, proctitis, with bleeding, esophageal perforation, pancreatitis, ileus

General: Sepsis, sudden death

Liver and biliary: Cholelithiasis

Hemic and lymphatic: Thrombocytopenia

Nervous: Ataxia, suicide (see section 4.5)

Renal: Acute renal failure

The Celecoxib Long-Term Arthritis Safety Study (see section 5.2)
Hematological Events: The incidence of clinically significant decreases in hemoglobin (>2 g/dL) was lower in patients on Celecoxib 400 mg twice daily (0.5%) compared to patients on either diclofenac 75 mg twice daily (1.3%) or ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily (1.9%). The lower incidence of events with Celecoxib was maintained with or without aspirin use (see section 5.2).
Withdrawals/Serious Adverse Events: Kaplan-Meier cumulative rates at 9 months for withdrawals due to adverse events for Celecoxib, diclofenac and ibuprofen were 24%, 29%, and 26%, respectively. Rates for serious adverse events (i.e., causing hospitalization or felt to be life-threatening or otherwise medically significant, regardless of causality, were not different across treatment groups (8%, 7%, and 8%, respectively).

Adverse Events from Analgesia and Dysmenorrhea Studies: Approximately 1,700 patients were treated with Celecoxib in analgesia and dysmenorrhea studies. All patients in post-oral surgery pain studies received a single dose of study medication. Doses up to 800 mg/day of Celecoxib were studied in primary dysmenorrhea and post-oral surgery pain studies. The types of adverse events in the analgesia and dysmenorrhea studies were similar to those reported in arthritis studies. The only additional adverse event reported was post-dental extraction alveolar osteitis (dry socket) in the post-oral surgery pain studies.

Postmarketing Experience
The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of Celecoxib. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Cardiovascular: Vasculitis, deep venous thrombosis

General: Anaphylactoid reaction, angioedema

Liver and biliary: Liver necrosis, hepatitis, jaundice, hepatic failure

Hemic and lymphatic: Agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia, pancytopenia, leukopenia

Metabolic: Hypoglycemia, hyponatremia

Nervous: Aseptic meningitis, agnosia, anosmia, fatal intracranial hemorrhage

Renal: Interstitial nephritis

4.9. Osteoarthritis
Symptoms following acute NSAID overdoses have been typically limited to lethargy, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, and epigastric pain, which have been generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding has occurred. Hypertension, acute renal failure, respiratory depression, and coma have occurred with overdoses of celecoxib in patients with renal impairment. No overdoses of Celecoxib were reported during clinical trials. Doses up to 2400 mg/day for up to 10 days in 12 patients did not result in serious toxicity. No information is available regarding the removal of celecoxib by hemodialysis, but based on its high degree of plasma protein binding (>97%) dialysis is unlikely to be useful in overdoses.

Manage patients with symptomatic and supportive care following an NSAID overdose. There are no specific antidotes. Consider emesis and/or activated charcoal (60 to 100 grams in adults, 1 to 2 grams per kg of body weight in pediatric patients) and/or osmotic cathartic in symptomatic patients seen within four hours of ingestion with a large overdose (5 to 10 times the recommended dosage). Forced diuresis, alkalization of urine, hemodialysis, or hemoperfusion may not be useful due to high protein binding.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES
5.1. Mechanism of action
Celecoxib has analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic properties. The mechanism of action of Celecoxib is believed to be due to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, primarily via inhibition of COX-2.
Celecoxib is a potent inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis *in vitro*. Celecoxib concentrations reached during therapy have produced *in vivo* effects. Prostaglandins sensitize afferent nerves and potentiate the action of bradykinin in inducing pain in animal models. Prostaglandins are mediators of inflammation. Since celecoxib is an inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis, its mode of action may be due to a decrease of prostaglandins in peripheral tissues.

5.2. Pharmacodynamic properties
Platelets
In clinical trials using normal volunteers, Celecoxib at single doses up to 800 mg and multiple doses of 600 mg twice daily for up to 7 days duration (higher than recommended therapeutic doses) had no effect on reduction of platelet aggregation or increase in bleeding time. Because of its lack of platelet effects, Celecoxib is not a substitute for aspirin for cardiovascular prophylaxis. It is not known if there are any effects of Celecoxib on platelets that may contribute to the increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic adverse events associated with the use of Celecoxib.

Fluid Retention
Inhibition of PGE2 synthesis may lead to sodium and water retention through increased reabsorption in the renal medullary thick ascending loop of Henle and through other segments of the distal nephron and active-controlled clinical trials of up to 12 weeks duration. In patients with OA, treatment with Celecoxib 100 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily resulted in improvement in WOMAC (Western Ontario and McMaster Universities) osteoarthritis index, a composite of pain, stiffness, and functional measures in OA. In three 12-week placebo- and active-controlled clinical trials of up to 24 weeks in duration, Celecoxib was shown to be superior to placebo in these studies, using the ACR20 Responder Index, a composite of clinical, laboratory, and functional measures in RA. Celecoxib doses of 100 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily provided significant reduction of pain within 24-48 hours of initiation of dosing. At doses of 100 mg twice daily the effectiveness of Celecoxib was shown to be similar to that of naproxen 500 mg twice daily. A total daily dose of 200 mg has been shown to be equally effective whether administered as 100 mg twice daily or 200 mg once daily.

Rheumatoid Arthritis
Celecoxib has demonstrated significant reduction in joint tenderness/pain and joint swelling compared to placebo. Celecoxib was evaluated for treatment of the signs and symptoms of RA in placebo- and active-controlled clinical trials of up to 24 weeks in duration. Celecoxib was shown to be superior to placebo in these studies, using the ACR20 Responder Index, a composite of clinical, laboratory, and functional measures in RA. Celecoxib doses of 100 mg twice daily and 200 mg twice daily were similar in effectiveness and both were comparable to naproxen 500 mg twice daily for gastroprotection. Although Celecoxib 100 mg twice daily and 200 mg once daily provided similar overall effectiveness, some patients derived additional benefit from the 200 mg twice daily dose.

Analgesia, including Primary Dysmenorrhea
In acute analgesic models of post-oral surgery pain, post-orthopedic surgical pain, and primary dysmenorrhea, Celecoxib relieved pain that was rated by patients as moderate to severe. Single doses (see section 4.2) of Celecoxib provided pain relief within 60 minutes.

Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial: Prospective Randomized Evaluation of Celecoxib Integrated Safety Versus Ibuprofen or Naproxen (PRECISION; NCT0346216)
Design
The PRECISION trial was a double-blind randomized controlled trial of cardiovascular safety in OA and RA patients with or at high risk for cardiovascular disease comparing celecoxib with naproxen and ibuprofen. Patients were randomized to a starting dose of 100 mg twice daily of celecoxib, 600 mg three times daily of ibuprofen, or 375 mg twice daily of naproxen, with the option of escalating the dose as needed for pain management. Based on labeled doses, OA patients randomized to celecoxib could not dose escalate.

The primary endpoint, the Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration (APTC) composite, was an independently adjudicated composite of cardiovascular death (including hemorrhagic death), non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke with 80% power to evaluate non-inferiority. All patients were prescribed open-label esomeprazole (20 mg) for gastroprotection. Treatment randomization was stratified by baseline low-dose aspirin use. Additionally, there was a 4-month substudy assessing the effects of the three drugs on blood pressure as measured by ambulatory monitoring.

Results
Among subjects with OA, only 0.2% (17/7259) escalated celecoxib to the 200 mg twice daily dose, whereas 54.7% (3946/7208) escalated ibuprofen to 800 mg three times daily, and 54.8% (3937/7178) escalated naproxen to the 500 mg twice daily dose. Among subjects with RA, 55.7% (453/813) escalated celecoxib to the 200 mg twice daily dose, 56.5% (470/832) escalated ibuprofen to 800 mg three times daily, and 54.6% (432/791) escalated naproxen to the 500 mg twice daily dose; however, the RA population accounted for only 10% of the trial population. Because relatively few celecoxib patients overall (5.8% [470/807]) dose-escalated to 200 mg twice daily, the results of the PRECISION trial are not suitable for determining the relative CV safety of celecoxib at 200 mg twice daily compared to ibuprofen and naproxen at the doses taken.

Primary Endpoint
The trial had two prespecified analysis populations:

- Intent-to-treat population (ITT): Comprised of all randomized subjects followed for a maximum of 30 months
- Modified Intent-to-treat population (mITT): Comprised of all randomized subjects who received at least one dose of study medication and had at least one post-baseline visit followed until the earlier of treatment discontinuation plus 30 days, or 43 months

Celecoxib, at the 100 mg twice daily dose, as compared with either naproxen or ibuprofen at the doses taken, met all four prespecified non-inferiority criteria (p<0.001 for non-inferiority in both comparisons) for the APTC endpoint, a composite of cardiovascular death (including hemorrhagic death), non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke (See Table 3). Non-inferiority was prespecified as a hazard ratio (HR) of ≤1.12 in both ITT and mITT analyses, and upper 95% CI of ≤1.33 for ITT analysis and ≤1.40 for mITT analysis.

The primary analysis results for ITT and mITT are described in Table 3.

Table 3. Primary Analysis Results for ITT and mITT APTC Composite Endpoint

Intent-To-Treat Analysis (ITT, through month 30)			
	Celecoxib	Ibuprofen	Naproxen
N	8,072	8,040	7,969
Subjects with Events	188 (2.3%)	218 (2.7%)	201 (2.5%)
Pairwise Comparison	Celecoxib vs. Ibuprofen	Celecoxib vs. Naproxen	Ibuprofen vs. Naproxen
HR (95% CI)	0.93 (0.76, 1.13)	0.86 (0.70, 1.04)	1.08 (0.89, 1.31)

Table 4. Summary of the Adjudicated APTC Components*

Intent-To-Treat Analysis (ITT, through month 30)			
	Celecoxib	Ibuprofen	Naproxen
N	8,072	8,040	7,969
CV Death	68 (0.8%)	80 (1.0%)	86 (1.1%)
Non-Fatal MI	76 (0.9%)	92 (1.1%)	66 (0.8%)
Non-Fatal Stroke	51 (0.6%)	53 (0.7%)	57 (0.7%)

Modified Intent-To-Treat Analysis (mITT, on treatment plus 30 days, through month 43)			
	8,030	7,990	7,933
CV Death	35 (0.4%)	51 (0.6%)	49 (0.6%)
Non-fatal MI	58 (0.7%)	76 (1.0%)	53 (0.7%)
Non-fatal Stroke	43 (0.5%)	32 (0.4%)	45 (0.6%)

*A patient may have experienced more than one component, therefore, the sum of the components is larger than the number of patients who experienced the composite outcome.

In the ITT analysis population through 30 months, all-cause mortality was 1.6% in the celecoxib group, 1.8% in the ibuprofen group, and 2.0% in the naproxen group.

Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) Substudy
In the PRECISION-ABPM substudy, among the total of 444 analyzable patients at Month 4, celecoxib dosed at 100 mg twice daily decreased mean 24-hour systolic blood pressure (SBP) by 0.3 mmHg, whereas ibuprofen and naproxen at the doses taken increased mean 24-hour SBP by 3.7 and 1.6 mmHg, respectively. These changes resulted in a statistically significant and clinically meaningful difference of 3.9 mmHg (p<0.0009) between celecoxib and ibuprofen and a nonstatistically significant difference of 1.8 (p=0.119) mmHg between celecoxib and naproxen.

Special Studies
Adenomatous Poly Prevention Studies (NCT0005094 and NCT00141193)
Cardiovascular safety was evaluated in two randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, three year studies involving patients with Sporadic Adenomatous Polyps treated with Celecoxib: the APC trial (Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib) and the PreSAP trial (Prevention of Sporadic Adenomatous Polyps). In the APC trial, there was a dose-related increase in the composite endpoint (adjudicated) of cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, or stroke with celecoxib compared to placebo over 3 years of treatment. The PreSAP trial did not demonstrate a statistically significant increased risk for the same composite endpoint (adjudicated).

- In the APC trial, the hazard ratios compared to placebo for a composite endpoint (adjudicated) of cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, or stroke were 3.4 (95% CI 1.4 - 8.5) with celecoxib 400 mg twice daily and 2.8 (95% CI 1.1 - 7.2) with celecoxib 200 mg twice daily. Cumulative rates for this composite endpoint over 3 years were 3.0% (20/671 subjects) and 2.5% (17/685 subjects), respectively, compared to 0.9% (6/679 subjects) with placebo treatment. The increases in both celecoxib dose groups versus placebo-treated patients were mainly due to an increased incidence of myocardial infarction.
- In the PreSAP trial, the hazard ratio for this same composite endpoint (adjudicated) was 1.2 (95% CI 0.6 - 2.4) with celecoxib 400 mg once daily compared to placebo. Cumulative rates for this composite endpoint over 3 years were 2.3% (21/933 subjects) and 1.9% (12/628 subjects), respectively.

Clinical trials of other COX-2 selective and non-selective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events, myocardial infarction, and stroke, which can be fatal. As a result, all NSAIDs are considered potentially associated with this risk. Celecoxib Long-Term Arthritis Safety Study (CLASS)
This was a prospective, long-term, safety outcome study conducted postmarketing in approximately 5,800 OA patients and 2,200 RA patients. Patients received Celecoxib 400 mg twice daily (4-fold and 2-fold the recommended OA and RA doses, respectively), ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily or diclofenac 75 mg twice daily (common therapeutic doses). Median exposures for Celecoxib (n = 3,987) and diclofenac (n = 1,996) were 9 months while ibuprofen (n = 1,985) was 6 months. The primary endpoint of this outcome study was the incidence of complicated ulcers (gastrointestinal bleeding, perforation or obstruction). Patients were allowed to take concomitant low-dose (<325 mg/day) aspirin (ASA) for cardiovascular prophylaxis (ASA subgroups: Celecoxib, n = 882; diclofenac, n = 445; ibuprofen, n = 412). Differences in the incidence of complicated ulcers between Celecoxib and the combined group of ibuprofen and diclofenac were not statistically significant.

Patients on Celecoxib and concomitant low-dose ASA (n=882) experienced 4fold higher rates of complicated ulcers compared to those not on ASA (n=3105). The Kaplan-Meier rate for complicated ulcers at 9 months was 1.12% versus 0.32% for those on low-dose ASA and those not on ASA, respectively (see section 4.4).

The estimated cumulative rates at 9 months of complicated and symptomatic ulcers for patients treated with Celecoxib 400 mg twice daily are described in Table 5. Table 5 also displays results for patients less than or greater than 65 years of age. The difference in rates between Celecoxib alone and Celecoxib with ASA groups may be due to the higher risk for GI events in ASA users.

Table 5. Complicated and Symptomatic Ulcer Rates in Patients Taking Celecoxib 400 mg Twice Daily (Kaplan-Meier Rates at 9 months (%) Based on Risk Factors)

All Patients	0.78
Celecoxib alone (n=3105)	2.19
Patients <65 Years	
Celecoxib alone (n=2025)	0.47
Celecoxib with ASA (n=403)	1.26
Patients ≥65 Years	
Celecoxib alone (n=1080)	1.40
Celecoxib with ASA (n=479)	3.06

In a small number of patients with a history of ulcer disease, the complicated and symptomatic ulcer rates in patients taking Celecoxib alone or Celecoxib with ASA were, respectively, 2.56% (n=243) and 6.85% (n=91) at 48 weeks. These results are to be expected in patients with a prior history of ulcer disease (see sections 4.4 and 4.8).

Cardiovascular safety outcomes were also reported in the CLASS trial. Kaplan-Meier cumulative rates for investigator-estimated serious cardiovascular thrombotic adverse events (including MI, pulmonary embolism, deep venous thrombosis, unstable angina or transient ischemic attack and ischemic cerebrovascular accidents) demonstrated no differences between the Celecoxib, diclofenac, or ibuprofen treatment groups. The cumulative rates in all patients at nine months for Celecoxib, diclofenac, and ibuprofen were 1.2%, 1.4%, and 1.1%, respectively. The cumulative rates in non-ASA users at nine months in each of the three treatment groups were less than 1%. The cumulative rates for myocardial infarction in non-ASA users at nine months in each of the three treatment groups were less than 0.2%. There was no placebo group in the CLASS trial, which limits the ability to determine whether the three drugs tested had no increased risk of CV events or if they all increased the risk to a similar degree. In the CLASS study, the Kaplan-Meier cumulative rates at 9 months of peripheral edema in patients on Celecoxib 400 mg twice daily (4-fold and 2-fold the recommended OA and RA doses, respectively), ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily and diclofenac 75 mg twice daily were 4.5%, 6.9%, and 4.7%, respectively. The rates of hypertension from the CLASS trial in the Celecoxib, ibuprofen and diclofenac-treated patients were 2.4%, 4.2% and 2.5%, respectively.

Endoscopic Studies
The correlation between findings of short-term endoscopic studies with Celecoxib and the relative incidence of clinically significant serious upper GI events with long-term use has not been established. Serious clinically significant upper GI bleeding has been observed in patients receiving Celecoxib in controlled and open-labeled trials (see sections 4.4 and 5.2). A randomized, double-blind study in 430 RA patients was conducted in which an endoscopic examination was performed at 6 months. The incidence of endoscopic ulcers in patients taking Celecoxib 200 mg twice daily was 4% vs. 15% for patients taking diclofenac SR 75 mg twice daily. However, Celecoxib was not statistically different than diclofenac for clinically relevant GI outcomes in the CLASS trial (see section 5.2).

The incidence of endoscopic ulcers was studied in two 12-week, placebo-controlled studies in 2157 OA and RA patients in whom baseline endoscopies revealed no ulcers. There was no dose relationship for the incidence of gastrointestinal ulcers and the dose of Celecoxib (50 mg to 400 mg twice daily). The incidence for naproxen 500 mg twice daily was 16.2 and 17.6% in the two studies, for placebo was 2.0 and 2.3%, and for all doses of Celecoxib the incidence ranged between 2.7%-5.9%. There have been no large, clinical outcome studies to compare clinically relevant GI outcomes with Celecoxib and naproxen.

In the endoscopic studies, approximately 11% of patients were taking aspirin (< 325 mg/day). In the Celecoxib groups, the endoscopic ulcer rate appeared to be higher in aspirin users than in non-users. However, the increased rate of ulcers in these aspirin users was less than the endoscopic ulcer rates observed in the active comparator groups, with or without aspirin.

5.3. Pharmacokinetic properties
Celecoxib exhibits dose-proportional increase in exposure after oral administration up to 200 mg twice daily and less than proportional increase at higher doses. It has extensive distribution and high protein binding. It is primarily metabolized by CYP2C9 with a half-life of approximately 11 hours.

Absorption
Peak plasma levels of celecoxib occur approximately 3 hours after an oral dose.

Under fasting conditions, both peak plasma levels (C_{max}) and area under the curve (AUC) are roughly dose-proportional up to 200 mg twice daily; at higher doses there are less than proportional increases in C_{max} and AUC (see Food Effects). Absolute bioavailability studies have not been conducted. With multiple dosing, steady-state conditions are reached on or before Day 5. The pharmacokinetic parameters of celecoxib in a group of healthy subjects are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of Single Dose (200 mg) Disposition Kinetics of Celecoxib in Healthy Subjects¹

C _{max} , ng/mL	T _{max} , hr	Mean (CV) PK Parameter Values	V _d , L	CL/F, L/hr
705 (38)	2.8 (37)	11.2 (31)	429 (34)	27.7 (28)

¹ Subjects under fasting conditions (n=36, 19-52 yrs).

Food Effects
When Celecoxib capsules were taken with a high fat meal, peak plasma levels were delayed for about 1 to 2 hours with an increase in total absorption (AUC) of 10% to 20%. Under fasting conditions, at doses above 200 mg, there is less than a proportional increase in C_{max} and AUC, which is thought to be due to the low solubility of the drug in aqueous media.

Co-administration of Celecoxib with an aluminum- and magnesium-containing antacids resulted in a reduction in plasma celecoxib concentrations with a decrease of 37% in C_{max} and 10% in AUC. Celecoxib, at doses up to 200 mg twice daily, can be administered without regard to timing of meals. Higher doses (400 mg twice daily) should be administered with food to improve absorption.

In healthy adult volunteers, the overall systemic exposure (AUC) of celecoxib was equivalent when celecoxib was administered as intact capsule or capsule contents sprinkled on applesauce. There were no significant alterations in C_{max}, T_{max}, or t_{1/2} after administration of capsule contents on applesauce (see section 4.2).

Distribution
In healthy subjects, celecoxib is highly protein bound (>97%) within the clinical dose range. *In vitro* studies indicate that celecoxib binds primarily to albumin and, to a lesser extent, α₂-acid glycoprotein. The apparent volume of distribution at steady state (V_d/F) is approximately 400 L, suggesting extensive distribution into the tissues. Celecoxib is not preferentially bound to red blood cells.

Elimination
Metabolism
Celecoxib metabolism is primarily mediated via CYP2C9. Three metabolites, a primary alcohol, the corresponding carboxylic acid and its glucuronide conjugate, have been identified in human plasma. These metabolites are inactive as COX-1 or COX-2 inhibitors.

Excretion
Celecoxib is eliminated predominantly by hepatic metabolism with little (<3%) unchanged drug recovered in the urine and feces. Following a single oral dose of radiolabeled drug, approximately 57% of the dose was excreted in the feces and 27% was excreted into the urine. The primary metabolite in both urine and feces was the carboxylic acid metabolite (73% of dose) with low amounts of the glucuronide also appearing in the urine. It appears that the low solubility of the drug prolongs the absorption process making terminal half-life (t_{1/2}) determinations more variable. The effective half-life is approximately 11 hours under fasting conditions. The apparent plasma clearance (CL/F) is about 500 mL/min.

Specific Populations
Geriatric
At steady state, elderly subjects (over 65 years old) had a 40% higher C_{max} and a 50% higher AUC compared to the young subjects. In elderly females, these increases are predominantly due to lower body weight in elderly females. Dose adjustment in the elderly is not generally necessary. However, for patients of less than 50 kg in body weight, initiate therapy at the lowest recommended dose (see section 4.2).

Race
Meta-analysis of pharmacokinetic studies has suggested an approximately 40% higher AUC of celecoxib in Blacks compared to Caucasians. The cause and clinical significance of this finding is unknown.

Hepatic Impairment
A pharmacokinetic study in subjects with mild (Child-Pugh Class II) and moderate (Child-Pugh Class III) hepatic impairment has shown that steady state celecoxib AUC is increased by 40% and 180%, respectively, above that seen in healthy control subjects. Therefore, the daily recommended dose of Celecoxib capsules should be reduced by approximately 50% in patients with moderate (Child-Pugh Class III) hepatic impairment. Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class G4) have not been studied. The use of Celecoxib in patients with severe hepatic impairment is not recommended (see section 4.2).

Renal Impairment
In a cross-study comparison, celecoxib AUC was approximately 40% lower in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (GFR 35-60 mL/min) than that seen in subjects with normal renal function. No significant relationship was found between GFR and celecoxib clearance. Patients with severe renal insufficiency have not been studied. Similar to other NSAIDs, Celecoxib is not recommended in patients with severe renal insufficiency (see section 4.4).

6. Non-Clinical Properties
6.1. Animal toxicology or pharmacology
Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Carcinogenesis
Celecoxib was not carcinogenic in Sprague-Dawley rats given oral doses up to 200 mg/kg for males and 10 mg/kg for females (approximately 2-to-4 times the human exposure as measured by the AUC₀₋₂₄) at 200 mg twice daily or in mice given oral doses up to 25 mg/kg for males and 50 mg/kg for females (approximately equal to human exposure as measured by the AUC₀₋₂₄) at 200 mg twice daily for two years.

Mutagenesis
Celecoxib was not mutagenic in an Ames test and a mutation assay in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, nor clastogenic in a chromosome aberration assay for CHO cells and an *in vivo* micronucleus test in rat bone marrow.

Impairment of Fertility
Celecoxib had no effect on male or female fertility or male reproductive function in rats at oral doses up to 600 mg/kg/day (approximately 11 times human exposure at 200 mg twice daily based on the AUC₀₋₂₄). At ≥ 50 mg/kg/day (approximately 6-times human exposure based on the AUC₀₋₂₄) at 200 mg twice daily there was increased pre-implantation loss.

An increase in the incidence of background findings of spermatocoe with or without secondary changes such as epididymal hypospermia as well as minimal to slight dilation of the seminiferous tubules was seen in the juvenile rats. These reproductive findings were apparently treatment-related did not increase in incidence or severity with dose and may indicate an exacerbation of a spontaneous condition. Similar reproductive findings were not observed in studies of juvenile or adult dogs or in adult rats treated with celecoxib. The clinical significance of this observation is unknown.

Description
Celecoxib (celecoxib) capsule is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, available as capsules containing 100 mg, 200 mg celecoxib for oral administration. The chemical name is 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl] benzene sulfonamide and is a diaryl-substituted pyrazole. The molecular weight is 381.38. Its molecular formula is C₁₇H₁₅F₃N₃O₂S and it has the following chemical