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Celebrex and Bextra Proving to be Popular Alternatives to Discontinued Vioxx

By Elena Ivantsova

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Ivantsova

Montreal, Quebec (AffordableDrugs) December 30, 2004 - The prescription drugs Celebrex and Bextra have grown in popularity since the arthritis painkiller Vioxx was pulled off the market earlier this year for safety concerns. Celebrex and Bextra are similar drugs to Vioxx as they are cox-2 inhibitors, and they also help relieve the pain caused by arthritic pain.

Vioxx, the arthritis medication produced by Merck Frost, was pulled off the market earlier this year due to concerns about possible side effects. Certain reports indicated that extended use of Vioxx could lead to the possibility of heart problems. At the time Vioxx was removed it was among the most popular and widely used medications. Last year, Vioxx generated annual sales of more than \$2 billion.

Since Vioxx was pulled, the medications Celebrex and Bextra have become popular alternatives. Celebrex has seen its market share in cox-2 inhibitors increase substantially from 48.7% in September 2004 to 63.5% in October 2004. That is an increase of almost 15% in one month. Bextra has also seen a similar increase as it went from a 23.5% market share in September to a 36% in October. As can be seen from the above data, the void left by Vioxx is quickly being filled by Celebrex and Bextra.

Celebrex and Bextra are currently available from AffordableDrugs at prices much lower than anywhere in the United States. Celebrex is available from AffordableDrugs at 100mg for 100 capsules: \$92.50, 200 capsules: \$173.64, 300 capsules: \$254.79. Bextra is available for 10mg for 100 tablets: \$167.40, 200 tablets: \$323.45, 300 tablets: \$479.50.

Vioxx is developed and manufactured by Merck Frost. Celebrex and Bextra are developed and manufactured by Pfizer.

AffordableDrugs is one of the leading international online pharmacies, based in Canada. We provide thousands of Americans with discount online drugs through our network of licensed Canadian pharmacies. We beat the prices of US drug stores and other Canadian online pharmacies.

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Pfizer's Bextra Faces Its First Lawsuit

By Scott Montgomery

For years, Merck has been under scrutiny for a number of drugs, most recently Vioxx. The recall of Vioxx has shares down by more than 40 percent and facing hundreds of lawsuits that could cost them billions of dollars. However, Merck is not alone in the scrutiny that this pharmaceutical company faces. Pfizer, the maker of Bextra and Celebrex, painkillers in the same family as Vioxx, is facing similar legal problems. The question being asked is whether Bextra and Celebrex increase the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Although Pfizer has avoided much of the negative publicity in newspapers and radio as compared to Merck, the question still stands as to whether the problems with Vioxx extend to similar medicines taken by millions of consumers. Although these pharmaceutical companies claim to have drugs that relieve chronic arthritis pain without causing ulcers, what other side effects may be the result?

Susan Raymond is filing a suit claiming her husband, age 46, died from a heart attack after taking Pfizer's Bextra for only 10 months. Jerrold Parker, an attorney at Parker & Waichman in Great Neck, N.Y. will be representing her.

Despite this incident, Pfizer challenges the negative effects that Bextra may have had, claiming that large, long-term studies demonstrate that although Bextra and Celebrex are in the same family of Cox-2 inhibitors, that they do not hold the same risk. Pfizer goes on to add that the two smaller studies that show risks associated with Bextra were limited to patients that had undergone open heart surgery and therefore, do not represent the risks to the average patient.

At a major medical meeting, two leading researchers presented evidence that Bextra carries the same elevated risk of heart attack and stroke as other Cox-2 inhibitors. They criticized Pfizer for failing to notify the public of the scientific data relating to its risks. In turn, Pfizer said the findings were flawed. Although the effects of Bextra remain an immense debate, medical experts have and will continue to raise questions about the safety of Bextra and this class of medicines.

Scott Montgomery, who represents the Montgomery Law Firm, LLC, investigates cases dealing with Bextra and its harmful side effects to consumers. If you or a loved one has been injured by Bextra you may have valuable legal rights. We will evaluate your case for free.



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