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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Vioxx Heart Attack and Stroke FAQs

By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC

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What are the grounds for Vioxx stroke or Celebrex litigation?

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Vioxx and Celebrex were billed as safe alternatives for people who suffer from chronic pain. In reality, they are expensive drugs that for most people provide no better treatment than older, less expensive medications. Far from having no side effects, these drugs share many of the same side effects of older NSAID medications. Despite claims to the contrary, new research has shown that patients who use these drugs are at risk of Vioxx heart attacks, stroke problems, liver damage, kidney damage, stomach ulcers, and other serious complications.

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What has been done so far with regard to Vioxx heart attack and Celebrex litigation?

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One class action suit has already been filed. Others are pending.

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What options do I have if I've been affected by Vioxx or Celebrex?

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You may qualify for future class action litigation against these drug makers. You may also have grounds for an individual suit for specific damages.

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What are the treatments for the disorders caused by Vioxx and Celebrex?

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Check with your doctor first. You may be able to use another pain relief medication. Older NSAIDs such as ibuprofen and naproxen work well for some patients. Other patients may not be able to use these medications.

Vioxx Heart Attack and Stroke FAQs

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What are the dangers of Vioxx and Celebrex? Vioxx:Heart Attacks

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Stomach ulcers and intestinal bleeding are the most common dangers. There is also a risk of Vioxx heart attack and stroke.

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Other side effects of these medications include:

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Serious stomach problems, such as stomach and intestinal bleeding, can occur with or without warning

symptoms. These problems, if severe, could lead to hospitalization or death. Although this happens rarely, you should watch for signs that you may have these serious side effects and tell your doctor immediately.

Serious allergic reactions including swelling of face, lips, tongue, and/or throat which may cause difficulty breathing or swallowing occur rarely but may require treatment right away.

Serious kidney problems occur rarely, including acute kidney failure and worsening of chronic kidney failure.

Severe liver problems occur rarely in patients taking NSAIDs. Tell your doctor if you develop symptoms of liver problems. These include nausea, tiredness, itching, tenderness in the right upper abdomen, and flu-like symptoms.

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More common, non-life threatening, side effects include:

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- Upper and/or lower respiratory infection and/or inflammation
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Heartburn, stomach pain, and upset
- Swelling of the legs and/or feet
- High blood pressure
- Back pain
- Tiredness
- Urinary tract infection.

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Which products contain Vioxx and Celebrex?

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There are no generic equivalents for these medications. They are only sold as Vioxx and Celebrex.

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Are there any safer alternatives to Vioxx and Celebrex?

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Older medications like ibuprofen, naproxen, or even just an aspirin have been used as alternatives for Vioxx and Celebrex.

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What could have been done to avoid the current Vioxx Heart Attack situation?

Several things:

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Adequate and more accurate testing prior to FDA approval could have revealed the same risks, like Vioxx Heart Attacks, that became known after the products were already on the market.

More extensive research could have been done prior to the approval and release of these drugs.

Advertising campaigns could have included more accurate information about the true effectiveness of these products.

A concerted effort was made to switch patients from less expensive prescriptions to these newer prescriptions which were much more expensive.

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What are Vioxx and Celebrex and what are they used for?

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Vioxx and Celebrex are used to treat the chronic pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, acute short-term pain, and for the treatment of severe menstrual pain. Although the two medications are slightly different in their chemical composition, Vioxx and Celebrex are both classified as COX-2 inhibitors and belong to a larger group of drugs known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs. Other NSAIDs include older medications like ibuprofen and naproxen.

Serious problems, like Vioxx Heart Attacks, have been associated with the long-term use of NSAIDs. Problems include bleeding stomach ulcers, intestinal bleeding, Vioxx heart attack problems, and damage to the liver and kidneys. These complications can occur with or without warning symptoms. These problems, if severe, could lead to hospitalization or death.

What are the Alternatives to Vioxx?

By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC

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With the withdrawal of Vioxx from the pharmaceutical market, doctors and patients are left scrambling for alternatives to Vioxx.

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR INFORMATION ON MEDICATIONS AND

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOXX.

The below is only informational, and is not offered as medical advice! Only your doctor can determine what pain killers will be right for you.

Vioxx is a prescription COX-2 selective, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that was approved by the FDA in May 1999 for the relief of osteoarthritis, for menstrual symptoms, and the management of acute pain in adults. Pain relievers called NSAIDs, work against two enzymes — COX-1 and COX-2 — that frequently cause inflammation and pain. Cox-1 is found in the stomach and Vioxx and its alternatives that attack it often cause upset stomachs and ulcers. Vioxx and Vioxx alternatives are known as a class of drugs called COX-2 inhibitors attack that sole enzyme, minimizing stomach side effects.

Are other alternatives to Vioxx safe? COX-2 drugs have the tendency to raise blood pressure, but only Vioxx has been linked to a higher risk of heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular problems. Although there is now study showing that some alternatives to Vioxx also cause heart problems. For example, the study released in October 2004 regarding Bextra and heart surgery patients.

Two COX-2 inhibitor alternatives to Vioxx are sold in the U.S. - Celebrex and Bextra. However, the safety has of these alternatives to Vioxx been questioned. Drug manufacturers - Pharmacia and Pfizer have huge advertising budgets and sales in the millions.

Bextra, an alternative to Vioxx, also known as Valdecoxib, was approved by the FDA in 2001 for the treatment of pain, tenderness, and swelling caused by osteoarthritis and adult rheumatoid arthritis. In some people, especially those with allergies to sulfonamides, this alternative to Vioxx has shown side effects could prove fatal.

Originally, side effects of this alternative to Vioxx included standard ailments such as stomach pain, diarrhea, heartburn, back pain, headache, nausea, and upper respiratory infection. In November 2002, the FDA increased adverse reactions to include serious and life-threatening skin diseases such as Stevens Johnson Syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and exfoliative dermatitis. When the FDA made its new warnings about the Bextra alternative to Vioxx, an estimated 800,000 to one million people had taken Bextra since it first went on sale.

Celebrex, another alternative to Vioxx, boasted that it didn't create the heart problems that Vioxx does. Celebrex is no panacea as it may cause bleeding stomach ulcers. None of the COX-2 alternatives to Vioxx are without risks and could possibly be more life threatening than the conditions they are meant

to treat.

Non-prescription alternatives to Vioxx include aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil) and naproxen (Aleve). Another kind of pain reliever, acetaminophen (Tylenol), can also be used. The price of alternatives to Vioxx is far less than Vioxx, Celebrex, and Bextra.

Natural alternatives to Vioxx may include a combination of improved nutritional choices, reasonable

exercise and physical therapies, and acupuncture.



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