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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!**

**What are the Alternatives to Vioxx?**

**By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC**

**What are the Alternatives to Vioxx? by Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC**

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

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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.

### **Celebrex and Bextra Proving to be Popular Alternatives to Discontinued Vioxx**

**By Elena 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,

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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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None

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Vioxx Heart Attack and Stroke FAQs

What was done about the inadequate Vioxx warnings?

The New Drug Recall Lawyers

Vioxx Withdrawal and Drug Litigation



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