Physicians

- Why is Merck withdrawing VIOXX?

Merck &. Co., Inc. is voluntarily withdrawing VIOXX (rofecoxib) effective immediately based on new, three year data from a placebo-controlled clinical trial. In this study, there was an increased risk for cardiovascular (CV) events, such as heart attack and stroke, beginning after 18 months of treatment in the patients taking VIOXX compared to those taking placebo. The results for the first 18 months of the APPROVe study did not show any increased risk of confirmed CV events on VIOXX, and in this respect are similar to the results of two placebo-controlled studies described in the current US labeling for VIOXX.

- What can you tell me about the APPROVe study?

APPROVe was a multi-center, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study to determine the effect of 156 weeks (3 years) of treatment with rofecoxib on the recurrence of adenomatous polyps of the large bowel in patients with a history of colorectal adenomas. The study included approximately 2600 patients aged 40-96; approximately 62% male. Aspirin was allowed in the study. The trial began enrollment in 2000.

- What do I need to do for patients currently taking VIOXX?

You should discontinue VIOXX in patients currently taking VIOXX and consider possible alternative treatments.

- What direction should I give patients about their unused supply of VIOXX?

Merck will reimburse patients for their unused VIOXX. Patients should retain their tablets. Information for patients on how to receive reimbursement will be posted on vioxx.com, or may be obtained by calling (888)36VIOXX or (888)368-4699.

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- What resources are available to physicians to get more information about withdrawal of VIOXX?

Health care professionals may obtain information from www.merck.com and www.vioxx.com, or may call 1-888-36-VIOXX (1-888-368-4699).

- What resources are available for patients to get more information about withdrawal of VIOXX?

Patients may obtain information from www.merck.com and www.vioxx.com, or may call 1-888-36-VIOXX (1-888-368-4699).