

PhysicianRxSM

NSAIDs

THE BOTTOM LINE

Although newer NSAIDs like Celebrex[®] are heavily advertised, they provide no additional value over generic NSAIDs for their higher cost.

Efficacy

All NSAIDs, including COX-2 selective NSAIDs, are equally effective treatments for pain and/or inflammation and have similar safety risks.

Safety

Gastrointestinal

- There is no data to show differences among COX-2 selective NSAIDs such as Celebrex and other NSAIDs in decreasing the risk of upper GI events.
- Patients using Celebrex were equally likely to have clinically significant upper gastrointestinal bleeding events as patients using diclofenac with omeprazole.

Cardiovascular

- Cardiovascular risks are inherent to all NSAIDs, including Celebrex, Vioxx[®], and Bextra[®].
- Manufacturers of all prescription NSAIDs are being asked to revise product labeling to include the same boxed warning and medication guide stressing the potential of increased cardiovascular events and GI bleeding associated with their use.
- Celebrex does not affect platelet aggregation and is not a substitute for aspirin for patients requiring cardiovascular prophylaxis.
- No NSAID, regardless of effects on platelets, has been shown to improve outcomes over other NSAIDs when administered perioperatively.
- Aspirin combined with Celebrex had a four-fold increase in rates of complicated ulcers than those using Celebrex alone.
- Celebrex has not demonstrated a favorable safety profile over non-selective NSAIDs in patients with heart failure or renal failure.

Cost Comparison

There are many options that vary in cost, but have similar benefits:

Generic Medications: ~ \$8 – \$40*

Brand names in () are non-preferred/non-formulary and are listed as reference only.

choline mg trisalicylate (Trilisate) diclofenac (Cataflam [®] , Voltaren [®]) etodolac (Lodine [®]) flurbiprofen (Ansaid [®]) ibuprofen (Motrin [®])	indomethacin (Indocin [®]) ketoprofen (Orudis [®]) meclofenamate, mefenamic acid (Ponstel [®]) nabumetone (Relafen [®]) naproxen (Anaprox [®] , Naprosyn [®])	oxaprozin (Daypro [®]) piroxicam (Feldene [®]) salsalate (Disalcid I [®]) sulindac (Clinoril [®]) tolmetin (Tolectin [®])
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Brand Medications: ~ \$74 – \$110*

Celebrex®
Mobic®

Bextra and Vioxx were brand name NSAIDs that were withdrawn from the market because of safety concerns.

*Approximate cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. Actual prices may vary depending on the pharmacy and the amount or strength of medication dispensed.

References

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Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.