

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use CELECOXIB CAPSULES safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for CELECOXIB CAPSULES.

**CELECOXIB capsules, for oral use**  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1998

<p><b>WARNING: RISK OF SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR AND GASTROINTESTINAL EVENTS</b> <i>See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) cause an increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction and stroke, which can be fatal. This risk may occur early in the treatment and may increase with duration of use. (5.1)</b></li><li><b>Celecoxib capsules is contraindicated in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery. (4, 5.1)</b></li><li><b>NSAIDs cause an increased risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the stomach or intestines, which can be fatal. These events can occur at any time during use and without warning symptoms. Elderly patients and patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding are at greater risk for serious GI events. (5.2)</b></li></ul>
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<p>-----<b>RECENT MAJOR CHANGES</b>-----</p>	
Warnings and Precautions (5.9)	11/2024
<p>-----<b>INDICATIONS AND USAGE</b>-----</p>	
Celecoxib capsules are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug indicated for:	
• Osteoarthritis (OA) (1, 1.1)	
• Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) (1, 2)	
• Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) in patients 2 years and older (1,3)	
• Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) (1, 4)	
• Acute Pain (AP) (1, 5)	
• Primary Dysmenorrhea (PD) (1, 6)	

<p>-----<b>DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>-----</p>	
• Use the lowest effective dosage for shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals. (2.1)	
• OA: 200 mg once daily or 100 mg twice daily. (2.2, 14.1)	
• RA: 100 mg to 200 mg twice daily (2.3, 14.2)	
• JRA: 50 mg twice daily in patients 10 kg to 25 kg, 100 mg twice daily in patients more than 25 kg. (2.4, 14.3)	
• AS: 200 mg once daily single dose or 100 mg twice daily. If no effect is observed after 6 weeks, a trial of 400 mg (single or divided doses) may be of benefit. (2.5, 14.4)	
• AP and PD: 400 mg initially, followed by 200 mg dose if needed on first day. On subsequent days, 200 mg twice daily as needed. (2.6, 14.5)	

Hepatic Impairment: Reduce daily dose by 50% in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B). (2.7, 8.6, 12.3)

Poor Metabolizers of CYP2C9 Substrates: Consider a dose reduction by 50% (or alternative management for JRA) in patients who are known or suspected to be CYP2C9 poor metabolizers. (2.7, 8.8, 12.6)

<p>-----<b>DOSEAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS</b>-----</p>	
Celecoxib capsules: 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, and 400 mg (3)	
<p>-----<b>CONTRAINDICATIONS</b>-----</p>	
• Known hypersensitivity to celecoxib, or any components of the drug product or sulfonamides. (4)	
• History of asthma, urticaria, or other allergic-type reactions after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs. (4)	
• In the setting of CABG surgery. (4)	

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<p><b>FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION</b></p>	
<p><b>WARNING: RISK OF SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR AND GASTROINTESTINAL EVENTS</b> <b>Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) cause an increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction and stroke, which can be fatal. This risk may occur early in the treatment and may increase with duration of use [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].</b></li><li><b>Celecoxib capsules are contraindicated in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery [see Contraindications (4) and Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].</b></li></ul> <p><b>Gastrointestinal Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>NSAIDs cause an increased risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the stomach or intestines, which can be fatal. These events can occur at any time during use and without warning symptoms. Elderly patients and patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding are at greater risk for serious GI events. [see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)].</b></li></ul>	

<p><b>1. INDICATIONS AND USAGE</b></p>	
Celecoxib capsules are indicated	
<p><b>1.1 Osteoarthritis (OA)</b></p>	
For the management of the signs and symptoms of OA [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.1)].	
<p><b>1.2 Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)</b></p>	
For the management of the signs and symptoms of RA [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.2)].	
<p><b>1.3 Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA)</b></p>	
For the management of the signs and symptoms of JRA in patients 2 years and older [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.3)].	
<p><b>1.4 Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)</b></p>	
For the management of the signs and symptoms of AS [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.4)].	
<p><b>1.5 Acute Pain</b></p>	
For the management of acute pain in adults [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.5)].	
<p><b>1.6 Primary Dysmenorrhea</b></p>	
For the management of primary dysmenorrhea [see <i>Clinical Studies</i> (14.5)].	
<p><b>2. DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION</b></p>	
<p><b>2.1 General Dosing Instructions</b></p>	
Carefully consider the potential benefits and risks of celecoxib capsules and other treatment options before deciding to use celecoxib capsules. Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5)].	
These doses can be given without regard to timing of meals.	
<p><b>2.2 Osteoarthritis</b></p>	
For OA, the dosage is 200 mg per day administered as a single dose or as 100 mg twice daily.	
<p><b>2.3 Rheumatoid Arthritis</b></p>	
For RA, the dosage is 100 mg to 200 mg twice daily.	
<p><b>2.4 Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis</b></p>	
For JRA, the dosage for pediatric patients (age 2 years and older) is based on weight. For patients $\geq$ 10 kg to $\leq$ 25 kg the recommended dose is 50 mg twice daily. For patients $>$ 25 kg the recommended dose is 100 mg twice daily.	
For patients who have difficulty swallowing capsules, the contents of a celecoxib capsule can be added to applesauce. The entire capsule contents are carefully emptied onto a level teaspoon of cool or room temperature applesauce and ingested immediately with water. The sprinkled capsule contents on applesauce are stable for up to 6 hours under refrigerated conditions (2° to 8°C/35°F to 45°F).	
<p><b>2.5 Ankylosing Spondylitis</b></p>	
For AS, the dosage of celecoxib capsules is 200 mg daily in single (once per day) or divided (twice per day) doses. If no effect is observed after 6 weeks of therapy at 400 mg daily may be worthwhile. If no effect is observed after 6 weeks on 400 mg daily, a response is not likely and consideration should be given to alternate treatment options.	
<p><b>2.6 Management of Acute Pain and Treatment of Primary Dysmenorrhea</b></p>	
For management of Acute Pain and Treatment of Primary Dysmenorrhea, the dosage is 400 mg initially, followed by an additional 200 mg dose if needed on the first day. On subsequent days, the recommended dose is 200 mg twice daily as needed.	
<p><b>2.7 Special Populations</b></p>	
<p><b>Hepatic Impairment</b></p>	
In patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B), reduce the dose by 50%. The use of celecoxib capsules in patients with severe hepatic impairment is not recommended [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5.3), <i>Use in Specific Populations</i> (8.6), and <i>Clinical Pharmacology</i> (12.3)].	
<p><b>Poor Metabolizers of CYP2C9 Substrates</b></p>	
In adult patients who are known or suspected to be poor CYP2C9 metabolizers based on genotype or previous history/experience with other CYP2C9 substrates (such as warfarin, phenytoin), initiate treatment with half of the lowest recommended dose. In patients with JRA who are known or suspected to be poor CYP2C9 metabolizers, consider using alternative treatments [see <i>Use in Specific Populations</i> (8.8) and <i>Clinical Pharmacology</i> (12.5)].	
<p><b>3. DOSEAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS</b></p>	
Celecoxib capsules:	
50 mg white to off-white powder filled in size “4” hard gelatin white capsules, with reverse printed white on red band with markings <b>50</b> on cap and <b>156</b> on body.	
100 mg white to off-white powder filled in size “4” hard gelatin white capsules, with reverse printed white on blue band with markings <b>50</b> on cap and <b>157</b> on body.	
200 mg white to off-white powder filled in size “2” hard gelatin white capsules, with reverse printed white on gold band with markings <b>50</b> on cap and <b>158</b> on body.	
400 mg white to off-white powder filled in size “0” hard gelatin white capsules, with reverse printed white on green band with markings <b>50</b> on cap and <b>159</b> on body.	
<p><b>4. CONTRAINDICATIONS</b></p>	
Celecoxib capsules are contraindicated in the following patients:	
• Known hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphylactic reactions and serious skin reactions) to celecoxib, any components of the drug product [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5.7, 5.9)].	
• History of asthma, urticaria, or other allergic-type reactions after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs. Severe, sometimes fatal, anaphylactic reactions to NSAIDs, have been reported in such patients [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5.7, 5.8)].	
• In the setting of CABG surgery [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5.1)].	
• In patients who have demonstrated allergic-type reactions to sulfonamides [see <i>Warnings and Precautions</i> (5.7)].	
<p><b>5. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1 Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events</b></p>	
Clinical trials of several cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) selective and nonselective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction and stroke, which can be fatal. Based on available data, it is unclear that the risk for CV thrombotic events is similar for all NSAIDs. The relative increase in serious CV thrombotic events over baseline conferred by NSAID use appears to be similar in those with and without known CV	

<p>-----<b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS</b>-----</p>	
• <b>Hepatotoxicity:</b> Inform patients of warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity. Discontinue if abnormal liver tests persist or worsen or if clinical signs and symptoms of liver disease develop. (5.3)	
• <b>Hypertension:</b> Patients taking some antihypertensive medications may have impaired response to these therapies when taking NSAIDs. Monitor blood pressure. (5.4, 7)	
• <b>Heart Failure and Edema:</b> Avoid use of celecoxib capsules in patients with severe heart failure unless benefits are expected to outweigh risk of worsening heart failure. (5.5)	
• <b>Renal Toxicity:</b> Monitor renal function in patients with renal or hepatic impairment, heart failure, dehydration, or hypovolemia. Avoid use of celecoxib capsules in patients with advanced renal disease unless benefits are expected to outweigh risk of worsening renal function. (5.6)	
• <b>Anaphylactic Reactions:</b> Seek emergency help if an anaphylactic reaction occurs. (5.7)	
• <b>Exacerbation of Asthma Related to Aspirin Sensitivity:</b> Celecoxib capsules are contraindicated in patients with aspirin-sensitive asthma. Monitor patients with preexisting asthma (without aspirin sensitivity). (5.8)	
• <b>Serious Skin Reactions:</b> Discontinue celecoxib capsules at first appearance of skin rash or other signs of hypersensitivity. (5.9)	
• <b>Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS):</b> Discontinue and evaluate clinically. (5.10)	
• <b>Fetal Toxicity:</b> Limit use of NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, between about 20 to 30 weeks in pregnancy due to the risk of oligohydramnios/fetal renal dysfunction. Avoid use of NSAIDs in women at about 30 weeks gestation and later in pregnancy due to the risks of oligohydramnios/fetal renal dysfunction and premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus. (5.11, 8.1)	
• <b>Hematologic Toxicity:</b> Monitor hemoglobin or hematocrit in patients with any signs or symptoms of anemia. (5.12, 7)	

<p>-----<b>ADVERSE REACTIONS</b>-----</p>	
Most common adverse reactions in arthritis trials (≥2% and $>$ -placebo) are abdominal pain, diarrhea, dyspepsia, flatulence, peripheral edema, accidental injury, dizziness, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, rash (6, 1).	
<p><b>To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact SciGen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., at 855-724-3436 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch</b></p>	
<p>-----<b>DRUG INTERACTIONS</b>-----</p>	
• <b>Drugs that Interfere with Hemostasis (e.g., warfarin, aspirin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)/serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)):</b> Monitor patients for bleeding who are concomitantly taking celecoxib capsules with drugs that interfere with hemostasis. Concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and analgesic doses of aspirin is not generally recommended. (7)	
• <b>Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors, Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARB), or Beta-Blockers:</b> Concomitant use with celecoxib capsules may diminish the antihypertensive effect of these drugs. Monitor blood pressure. (7)	
• <b>ACE Inhibitors and ARBs:</b> Concomitant use with celecoxib capsules in elderly, volume depleted, or those with renal impairment may result in deterioration of renal function. In such high risk patients, monitor for signs of worsening renal function. (7)	
• <b>Diuretics:</b> NSAIDs can reduce natriuretic effect of furosemide and thiazide diuretics. Monitor patients to assure diuretic effect. (7)	
• <b>Digoxin:</b> Concomitant use with celecoxib capsules can increase serum concentration and prolong half-life of digoxin. Monitor serum digoxin levels. (7)	

<p>-----<b>USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS</b>-----</p>	
• <b>Fertility:</b> NSAIDs are associated with reversible infertility. Consider withdrawal of celecoxib capsules in women who have difficulties conceiving. (8.3)	

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide.

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disease or risk factors for CV disease. However, patients with known CV disease or risk factors had a higher absolute incidence of excess serious CV thrombotic events, due to their increased baseline rate. Some observational studies found that this increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events began as early as the first weeks of treatment. The increase in CV thrombotic risk has been observed most consistently at higher doses.

In the APC (Adenoma Prevention with Celecoxib) trial, there was about a threefold increased risk of the composite endpoint of cardiovascular death, MI, or stroke for the celecoxib capsules 400 mg twice daily and celecoxib capsules 200 mg twice daily treatment arms compared to placebo. The increases in both celecoxib dose groups versus placebo-treated patients were mainly due to an increased incidence of myocardial infarction [see *Clinical Studies* (14.7)].

A randomized controlled trial entitled the Prospective Randomized Evaluation of Celecoxib Integrated Safety vs. Ibuprofen Or Naproxen (PRECISION) was conducted to assess the relative cardiovascular thrombotic risk of a COX-2 inhibitor, celecoxib compared to the non-selective NSAIDs naproxen and ibuprofen. Celecoxib 100 mg twice daily was non-inferior to naproxen 375 mg to 500 mg twice daily and ibuprofen 600 mg to 800 mg three times daily for the composite endpoint of the Antipiatelet Trials’s Collaboration (APTCL), which consists of cardiovascular death (including hemorrhagic death), non-fatal myocardial infarction, and non-fatal stroke [see *Clinical Studies* (14.6)].

To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event in NSAID-treated patients, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should remain alert for the development of such events, throughout the entire treatment course, even in the absence of previous CV symptoms. Patients should be informed about the symptoms of serious CV events and the steps to take if they occur.

There is no consistent evidence that concurrent use of aspirin mitigates the increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events associated with NSAID use. The concurrent use of aspirin and an NSAID, such as celecoxib, increases the risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) events [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2)].

Status Post Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery

No large, controlled clinical trials of a COX-2 selective NSAID for the treatment of pain in the first 10 to 14 days following CABG surgery found an increased incidence of myocardial infarction and stroke. NSAIDs are contraindicated in the setting of CABG [see *Contraindications* (4)].

Post-MI Patients

Observational studies conducted in the Danish National Registry have demonstrated that patients treated with NSAIDs in the post-MI period were at increased risk of reinfarction, CV-related death, and all-cause mortality beginning in the first week of treatment. In this same cohort, the incidence of death in the first year post-MI was 20 per 100 person years in NSAID-treated patients compared to 12 per 100 person years in non-NSAID exposed patients. Although the absolute rate of death declined somewhat after the first year post-MI, the increased relative risk of death in NSAID users persisted over at least the next four years of follow-up.

Avoid the use of celecoxib capsules in patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events. If celecoxib capsules are used in patients with a recent MI, monitor patients for signs of cardiac ischemia.

**5.2 Gastrointestinal Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation**
NSAIDs, including celecoxib cause serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including inflammation, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, or large intestine, which can be fatal. These serious adverse events can occur at any time, with or without warning symptoms, in patients treated with celecoxib capsules. Only one in five patients who develop a serious upper GI adverse event on NSAID therapy is symptomatic. Upper GI ulcers, gross bleeding, or perforation caused by NSAIDs occurred in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3 to 6 months, and in about 2% to 4% of patients treated for one year. However, even short-term NSAID therapy is not without risk.

Risk Factors for GI Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

Patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding who use NSAIDs had a greater than 10-fold increased risk for developing a GI adverse event in patients without these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk of GI bleeding in patients treated with NSAIDs include longer duration of NSAID therapy, concomitant use of oral corticosteroids, antiplatelet drugs (such as aspirin), anticoagulants, or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs); smoking; use of alcohol; older age; and poor general health status. Most postmarketing reports of fatal GI events occurred in elderly or debilitated patients. Additionally, patients with advanced liver disease and/or cogangulopathy are at increased risk for GI bleeding.

Complicated and symptomatic ulcer rates were 0.78% at nine months for all patients in the CLASS trial, and 2.19% for the subgroup on low-dose ASA. Patients 65 years of age and older had an incidence of 1.40% at nine months, 3.06% when also taking ASA [see *Clinical Studies* (14.7)].

Strategies to Minimize the GI Risks in NSAID-treated patients:

- Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest possible duration.
- Avoid administration of more than one NSAID at a time.
- Avoid use in patients at higher risk unless benefits are expected to outweigh the increased risk of bleeding. For such patients, as well as those with active GI bleeding, consider alternate therapies other than NSAIDs.
- Remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during NSAID therapy.
- If a serious GI adverse event is suspected, promptly institute evaluation and treatment, and discontinue celecoxib capsules until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out.
- In the setting of concomitant use of low-dose aspirin for cardiac prophylaxis, monitor patients more closely for evidence of GI bleeding [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

### 5.3 Hepatotoxicity

Elevations of ALT or AST (three or more times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) have been reported in approximately 1% of NSAID-treated patients in clinical trials. In addition, rare, sometimes fatal, cases of severe hepatic injury, including fulminant hepatitis, liver necrosis, and hepatic failure have been reported.

Elevations of ALT or AST (less than three times ULN) may occur in up to 15% of patients treated with NSAIDs including celecoxib.

In controlled clinical trials of celecoxib capsules, the incidence of borderline elevations (greater than or equal to 1.2 times and less than 3 times the upper limit of normal) of liver associated enzymes was 6% for celecoxib capsules and 5% for placebo, and approximately 0.2% of patients taking celecoxib capsules and 0.3% of patients taking placebo had notable elevations of ALT and AST.

Inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and “flu-like” symptoms). If clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifestations occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash), discontinue celecoxib capsules immediately, and perform a clinical evaluation of the patient.

**5.4 Hypertension**
NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, can lead to new onset of hypertension or worsening of preexisting hypertension, either of which may contribute to the increased incidence of CV events. Patients taking angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, thiazide diuretics or loop diuretics may have impaired response to these therapies when taking NSAIDs [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

See *Clinical Studies* (14.6, 14.7) for additional blood pressure data for celecoxib capsules.

Monitor blood pressure (BP) during the initiation of NSAID treatment and throughout the course of therapy.

### 5.5 Heart Failure and Edema

The Coxib and traditional NSAID Trialists’ Collaboration meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials demonstrated an approximately two-fold increase in hospitalizations for heart failure in COX-2 selective-treated patients and nonselective NSAID-treated patients compared to placebo-treated patients. In a Danish National Registry study of patients with heart failure, NSAID use increased the risk of MI, hospitalization for heart failure, and death.

Additionally, fluid retention and edema have been observed in some patients treated with NSAIDs. Use of celecoxib may blunt the CV effects of several therapeutic agents used to treat these medical conditions (e.g., diuretics, ACE inhibitors, or angiotensin receptor blockers [ARBs]) [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

In the CLASS study [see *Clinical Studies* (14.7)], the Kaplan-Meier cumulative rates at 9 months of peripheral edema in patients on celecoxib capsules 400 mg twice daily (4-fold and 2-fold the recommended OA and RA doses, respectively), ibuprofen 800 mg three times daily and diclofenac 75 mg twice daily were 4.5%, 6.9% and 4.7%, respectively.

Avoid the use of celecoxib capsules in patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure. If celecoxib capsules are used in patients with severe heart failure, monitor patients for signs of worsening heart failure.

### 5.6 Renal Toxicity and Hyperkalemia

Renal Toxicity

Long-term administration of NSAIDs has resulted in renal papillary necrosis and other renal injury.

Renal toxicity has also been seen in patients in whom renal prostaglandins have a compensatory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients, administration of an NSAID may cause a dose-dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, which may precipitate overt renal decompensation. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, dehydration, hypovolemia, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics, ACE inhibitors or the ARBs, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state.

No information is available from controlled clinical studies regarding the use of celecoxib capsules in patients with advanced renal disease. The renal effects of celecoxib may hasten the progression of renal dysfunction in patients with preexisting renal disease. Correct volume status in dehydrated or hypovolemic patients prior to initiating celecoxib capsules. Monitor renal function in patients with renal or hepatic impairment, heart failure, dehydration, or hypovolemia during use of celecoxib capsules [see *Drug Interactions* (7)]. Avoid the use of celecoxib capsules in patients with advanced renal disease unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening renal function. If celecoxib capsules are used in patients with advanced renal disease, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function.

**Hyperkalemia**
Increases in serum potassium concentration, including hyperkalemia, have been reported with use of NSAIDs, even in some patients without renal impairment. In patients with normal renal function, these effects have been attributed to a hypernemic-hypaldosteronism state.

**5.7 Anaphylactic Reactions**
Celecoxib has been associated with anaphylactic reactions in patients with and without known hypersensitivity to celecoxib and in patients with aspirin sensitive asthma. Celecoxib is a sulfonamide and both NSAIDs and sulfonamides may cause allergic type reactions including anaphylactic symptoms and life-threatening or less severe asthmatic episodes in certain susceptible people [see *Contraindications* (4) and *Warnings and Precautions* (5.8)].

Seek emergency help if any anaphylactic reaction occurs.

<p><b>5.8 Exacerbation of Asthma Related to Aspirin Sensitivity</b></p>	
A Subpopulation of patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma which may include chronic rhinosinusitis complicated by nasal polyps; severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm; and/or intolerance to aspirin and other NSAIDs. Because cross-reactivity exists between aspirin and other NSAIDs, there has been reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, celecoxib capsules are contraindicated in patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity [see <i>Contraindications</i> (4)]. When celecoxib capsules are used in patients with preexisting asthma (without known aspirin sensitivity), monitor patients for changes in the signs and symptoms of asthma.	
<p><b>5.9 Serious Skin Reactions</b></p>	
Serious skin reactions have occurred following treatment with celecoxib capsules, including erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), and fixed drug eruption (FDE) which may present as a more severe variant known as generalized bullous fixed drug eruption (GBFDE). These serious events may occur without warning and can be fatal.	
Inform patients about the signs and symptoms of serious skin reactions, and to discontinue the use of celecoxib capsules at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity. Celecoxib capsules are contraindicated in patients with previous serious skin reactions to NSAIDs [see <i>Contraindications</i> (4)].	
<p><b>5.10 Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)</b></p>	
Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) has been reported in patients taking NSAIDs such as celecoxib capsules. Some of these events have been fatal or life-threatening. DRESS typically, although not exclusively, presents with fever, rash, lymphadenopathy, and/or facial swelling. Other clinical manifestations may include hepatitis, nephritis, hematological abnormalities, myocarditis, or myositis. Sometimes symptoms of DRESS may resemble an acute viral infection. Eosinophilia is often present. Because this disorder is variable in its presentation, other organ systems not listed here may be involved. It is important to note that all manifestations of hypersensitivity, such as fever or lymphadenopathy, may be present even though rash is not evident. If such signs or symptoms are present, discontinue celecoxib capsules and evaluate the patient immediately.	

<p><b>18 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING</b></p>	
<p><b>17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION</b></p>	
*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.	

<p><b>6 ADVERSE REACTIONS</b></p>	
6.1 Clinical Trials Experience	
6.2 Postmarketing Experience	
<p><b>7 DRUG INTERACTIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS</b></p>	
8.1 Pregnancy</	

<b>Intervention:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and ACE inhibitors, ARBs, or beta-blockers, monitor blood pressure to ensure that the desired blood pressure is obtained.</li> <li>During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and ACE inhibitors or ARBs in patients who are elderly, volume-depleted, or have impaired renal function, monitor for signs of worsening renal function (see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.6)</i>).</li> <li>When these drugs are administered concomitantly, patients should be adequately hydrated. Assess renal function at the beginning of the concomitant treatment and periodically thereafter.</li> </ul>
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<b>Diuretics</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Clinical studies, as well as post-marketing observations, showed that NSAIDs reduced the natriuretic effect of loop diuretics (e.g., furosemide) and thiazide diuretics (e.g., furosemide). This effect has been attributed to the NSAID inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis.

<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules with diuretics, observe patients for signs of worsening renal function, in addition to assuring diuretic efficacy including antihypertensive effects (see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.6)</i> ).
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<b>Digoxin</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	The concomitant use of Celecoxib with digoxin has been reported to increase the serum concentration and prolong the half-life of digoxin.
<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and digoxin, monitor serum digoxin levels.

<b>Lithium</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	NSAIDs have produced elevations in plasma lithium levels and reductions in renal lithium clearance. The mean minimum lithium concentration increased 15%, and the renal clearance decreased by approximately 20%. This effect has been attributed to NSAID inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis.
<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and lithium, monitor patients for signs of lithium toxicity.

<b>Methotrexate</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Concomitant use of NSAIDs and methotrexate may increase the risk for methotrexate toxicity (e.g., neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, renal dysfunction).
	Celecoxib has no effect on methotrexate pharmacokinetics.
<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and methotrexate, monitor patients for methotrexate toxicity.

<b>Cyclosporine</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and cyclosporine may increase cyclosporine's nephrotoxicity.
<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and cyclosporine, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function.

<b>NSAIDs and Salicylates</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	The concomitant use of celecoxib with other NSAIDs or salicylates (e.g., diflunisal, salsalate) increases the risk of GI toxicity, with little or no increase in efficacy (see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.2)</i> ).
<b>Intervention:</b>	The concomitant use of Celecoxib with other NSAIDs or salicylates is not recommended.

<b>Pemetrexed</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and pemetrexed may increase the risk of pemetrexed-associated myelosuppression, renal, and GI toxicity (see the pemetrexed prescribing information).
<b>Intervention:</b>	During concomitant use of celecoxib capsules and pemetrexed, in patients with renal impairment whose creatinine clearance ranges from 45 mL/min to 79 mL/min, monitor for myelosuppression, renal and GI toxicity. NSAIDs with short elimination half-lives (e.g., diclofenac, indomethacin) should be avoided for a period of two days before, the day of, and two days following administration of pemetrexed.

In the absence of data regarding potential interaction between pemetrexed and NSAIDs with longer half-lives (e.g., meloxicam, nabumetone), patients taking these NSAIDs should interrupt dosing for at least five days before, the day of, and two days following pemetrexed administration.

<b>CYP2C9 Inhibitors or Inducers</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Celecoxib metabolism is predominantly mediated via cytochrome P450 (CYP) 2C9 in the liver. Coadministration of celecoxib with drugs that are known to inhibit CYP2C9 (e.g., fluconazole) may enhance the exposure and toxicity of celecoxib whereas co-administration with CYP2C9 inducers (e.g, rifampin) may lead to compromised efficacy of celecoxib.
<b>Intervention:</b>	Evaluate each patient's medical history when consideration is given to prescribing celecoxib. A dosage adjustment may be warranted when celecoxib is administered with CYP2C9 inhibitors or inducers. (see <i>Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)</i> ).

<b>CYP2D6 substrates</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	<i>In vitro</i> studies indicate that celecoxib, although not a substrate, is an inhibitor of CYP2D6. Therefore, there is a potential for an <i>in vivo</i> drug interaction with drugs that are metabolized by CYP2D6 (e.g., atomoxetine), and celecoxib may enhance the exposure and toxicity of these drugs.
<b>Intervention:</b>	Evaluate each patient's medical history when consideration is given to prescribing celecoxib. A dosage adjustment may be warranted when celecoxib is administered with CYP2D6 substrates. (see <i>Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)</i> ).

<b>Corticosteroids</b>	
<b>Clinical Impact:</b>	Concomitant use of corticosteroids with celecoxib capsules may increase the risk of GI ulceration or bleeding.
<b>Intervention:</b>	Monitor patients with concomitant use of celecoxib capsules with corticosteroids for signs of bleeding (see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.2)</i> ).

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

Use of NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, can cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus and fetal renal dysfunction leading to oligohydramnios and, in some cases, neonatal renal impairment. Because of these risks, limit dose and duration of celecoxib capsules use between about 20 and 30 weeks of gestation and avoid celecoxib capsules use at about 30 weeks of gestation and later in pregnancy (see *Clinical Considerations, Data*).

Premature Closure of Fetal Ductus Arteriosus

Use of NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, at about 30 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy increases the risk of premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus.

*Oligohydramnios/Neonatal Renal Impairment*

Use of NSAIDs at about 20 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy has been associated with cases of fetal renal dysfunction leading to oligohydramnios, and in some cases, neonatal renal impairment.

Data from observational studies regarding other potential embryofetal risks of NSAID use in women in the first or second trimesters of pregnancy are inconclusive. In human reproduction studies, embryo-fetal deaths and an increase in diaphragmatic hernias were observed in rats administered celecoxib daily during the period of organogenesis at oral doses approximately 6 times the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 200 mg twice daily. In addition, structural abnormalities (e.g., septal defects, ribs fused, sternbrae fused and sternbrae misspahan) were observed in rabbits given daily oral doses of celecoxib during the period of organogenesis at approximately 2 times the MRHD (see *Data*). Based on animal data, prostaglandins have been shown to have an important role in endometrial permeability, blastocyst implantation, and decidualization. In animal studies, administration of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors such as celecoxib, resulted in increased pre- and post-implantation loss. Prostaglandins also have been shown to have an important role in fetal kidney development. In published animal studies, prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors have been reported to impair kidney development when administered at clinically relevant doses.

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2% to 4% and 15% to 20%, respectively.

<b>Clinical Considerations</b>	
<b>Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions</b>	
<b>Premature Closure of Fetal Ductus Arteriosus:</b>	Avoid use of NSAIDs in pregnant women at about 30 weeks gestation and later in pregnancy, because NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, can cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus (see <i>Data</i> ).

*Oligohydramnios/Neonatal Renal Impairment:*

If an NSAID is necessary during the first 30 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy, limit the use to the lowest effective dose and shortest duration possible. If celecoxib capsules were taken beyond 48 hours, consider monitoring with ultrasound for oligohydramnios. If oligohydramnios occurs, discontinue celecoxib capsules and follow up according to clinical practice (see *Data*).

*Labor or Delivery*

There are no studies on the effects of celecoxib during labor or delivery. In animal studies, NSAIDs, including celecoxib, inhibit prostaglandin synthesis, cause delayed parturition, and increase the incidence of stillbirth.

*Data*

*Human Data*

The available data do not establish the presence or absence of developmental toxicity related to the use of celecoxib capsules. Premature Closure of Fetal Ductus Arteriosus:

Published literature reports that the use of NSAIDs at about 30 weeks of gestation and later in pregnancy may cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus.

*Oligohydramnios/Neonatal Renal Impairment:*

Published studies and postmarketing reports describe maternal NSAID use at about 20 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy associated with fetal renal dysfunction leading to oligohydramnios, and in some cases, neonatal renal impairment. These adverse outcomes are seen, on average, after days to weeks of treatment although oligohydramnios has been infrequently reported so soon as 48 hours after NSAID initiation. In many cases, but not all, the decrease in amniotic fluid was transient and reversible with cessation of the drug. There have been a limited number of case reports of maternal NSAID use and neonatal renal dysfunction without oligohydramnios, some of which were irreversible. Some cases of neonatal renal dysfunction required treatment with invasive procedures, such as exchange transfusion or dialysis.

Methodological limitations of these postmarketing studies and reports include lack of a control group, limited information regarding dose, duration, and timing of drug exposure; and concomitant use of other medications. These limitations preclude establishing a reliable estimate of the risk of adverse fetal and neonatal outcomes with maternal NSAID use. Because the published safety data on neonatal outcomes involved mostly preterm infants, the generalizability of certain reported risks to the full-term infant exposed to NSAIDs through maternal use is uncertain.

*Animal Data*

Celecoxib at oral doses  $\geq$ 150 mg/kg/day (approximately 2 times the human exposure at 200 mg twice daily as measured by AUC<sub>0-24</sub>) caused an increase of ventricular septal defects, a rare event, and fetal alterations, such as ribs fused, sternbrae fused and sternbrae misspahan when rabbits were treated throughout organogenesis. A dose-dependent increase in diaphragmatic hernias was observed when rats were given celecoxib at oral doses  $\geq$  30 mg/kg/day (approximately 6 times human exposure based on the AUC<sub>0-24</sub> at 200 mg twice daily for RA) throughout organogenesis. In rats, exposure to celecoxib during early embryonic development resulted in pre-implantation and post-implantation losses at oral doses  $\geq$ 50 mg/kg/day (approximately 6 times human exposure based on the AUC<sub>0-24</sub> at 200 mg twice daily for RA).

Celecoxib produced no evidence of delayed labor or parturition at oral doses up to 100 mg/kg in rats (approximately 7-fold human exposure as measured by the AUC<sub>0-24</sub> at 200 mg twice daily). The effects of celecoxib on labor and delivery in pregnant women are unknown.

### 8.2 Lactation

**Risk Summary**

Limited data from 3 published reports that included a total of 12 breastfeeding women showed low levels of celecoxib in breast milk. The calculated average daily infant dose was 10 mg/kg/day to 40 mg/kg/day, less than 1% of the weight-based therapeutic dose for a two-year old-child. A report of two breastfed infants 17 and 22 months of age did not show any adverse events. Caution should be exercised when celecoxib capsules are administered to a nursing woman. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for celecoxib and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from the celecoxib or from the underlying maternal condition.

**8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential**

*Female*

Based on the mechanism of action, the use of prostaglandin-mediated NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, may delay or prevent rupture of ovarian follicles, which has been associated with reversible infertility in some women. Published animal studies have shown that administration of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors has the potential to disrupt prostaglandin mediated follicular rupture required for ovulation. Small studies in women treated with NSAIDs have also shown a reversible delay in ovulation. Consider withdrawal of NSAIDs, including celecoxib capsules, in women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility.

**8.4 Pediatric Use**

Celecoxib capsules are approved for relief of the signs and symptoms of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis in patients 2 years and older. Safety and efficacy have not been studied beyond six months in children. The long-term cardiovascular toxicity in children exposed to celecoxib has not been evaluated and it is unknown if long-term risks may be similar to those seen in adults exposed to celecoxib or other COX-2 selective and non-selective NSAIDs (see *Boxed Warning, Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*, and *Clinical Studies (14.3)*).

The use of onset JRA in patients 2 years to 17 years of age with pauciarticular, polyarticular course JRA or in patients with systemic onset JRA was studied in a 12-week, double-blind, active controlled, pharmacokinetic, safety and efficacy study, with a 12-week open-label extension. Celecoxib has not been studied in patients under the age of 2 years, in patients with body weight

less than 10 kg (22 lbs), and in patients with active systemic features. Patients with systemic onset JRA (without active systemic features) appear to be at risk for the development of abnormal coagulation laboratory tests. In some patients with systemic onset JRA, both celecoxib and naproxen were associated with mild prolongation of activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) but not prothrombin time (PT). When NSAIDs including celecoxib are used in patients with systemic onset JRA, monitor patients for signs and symptoms of abnormal clotting or bleeding, due to the risk of disseminated intravascular coagulation. Patients with systemic onset JRA should be monitored for the development of abnormal coagulation tests (see *Dosage and Administration (2.4)*, *Warnings and Precautions (5.15)*, *Adverse Reactions (6.1)*, *Animal Toxicology (13.2)*, *Clinical Studies (14.3)*). Alternative therapies for treatment of JRA should be considered in pediatric patients identified to be CYP2C9 poor metabolizers (see *Poor Metabolizers of CYP2C9 Substrates (8.6)*).

**8.5 Geriatric Use**

Elderly patients, compared to younger patients, are at greater risk for NSAID-associated serious cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and/or renal adverse reactions. If the anticipated benefit for the elderly patient outweighs these potential risks, start dosing at the low end of the dosing range, and monitor patients for adverse effects (see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5. 5.14)*).

Of the total number of patients who received celecoxib capsules in pre-approval clinical trials, more than 3,300 were 65 to 74 years of age and approximately 1,300 additional patients were 75 years and over. No substantial differences in effectiveness were observed between these subjects and younger subjects. In clinical studies comparing renal function as measured by the GFR, BUN and creatinine, and platelet function as measured by bleeding time and platelet aggregation, the results were not different between elderly and young volunteers. However, as with other NSAIDs, including those that selectively inhibit COX-2, there have been more spontaneous post- -marketing reports of fatal GI events and acute renal failure in the elderly than in younger patients (see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2, 5.6)*).

**8.6 Hepatic Impairment**

The daily recommended dose of celecoxib capsules in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B) should be reduced by 50%. The use of celecoxib in patients with severe hepatic impairment is not recommended (see *Dosage and Administration (2.7)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*).

**8.7 Renal Impairment**

Celecoxib capsules are not recommended in patients with severe renal insufficiency (see *Warnings and Precautions (5.6)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*).

**8.8 Poor Metabolizers of CYP2C9 Substrates**

In patients who are known or suspected to be poor CYP2C9 metabolizers (i.e., CYP2C9\*3/\*3), based on genotype or previous history/experience with other CYP2C9 substrates (such as warfarin, phenytoin) administer celecoxib capsules starting with half the lowest recommended dose. Alternative management should be considered in JRA patients identified to be CYP2C9 poor metabolizers (see *Dosage and Administration (2.7)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.5)*).

**10 OVERDOSAGE**

Symptoms following acute NSAID overdosages have been typically limited to lethargy, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, and epigastric pain, which have been generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding has occurred. Hypertension, acute renal failure, respiratory depression, and coma have occurred, but were rare (see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2, 5.4, 5.6)*).

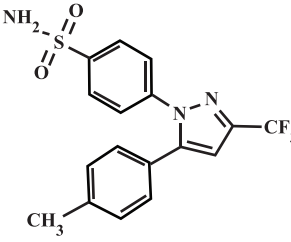
No overdoses of celecoxib were reported during clinical trials. Doses up to 2,400 mg/day for up to 10 days in 12 patients did not result in serious toxicity. No information is available regarding the removal of celecoxib by hemodialysis, but based on its high degree of plasma protein binding (>97%) dialysis is unlikely to be useful in overdose.

Manage patients with symptomatic and supportive care following an NSAID overdosage. There are no specific antidotes. Consider emesis and/or activated charcoal (60 grams to 100 grams in adults, 1 gram to 2 grams per kg of body weight in pediatric patients) and/or osmotic cathartic in symptomatic patients seen within four hours of ingestion or in patients with a large overdosage (5 to 10 times the recommended dosage). Forced diuresis, alkalization of urine, hemodialysis, or hemoperfusion may not be useful due to high protein binding.

For additional information about overdosage treatment contact a poison control center (1-800-222-1222).

## 11 DESCRIPTION

Celecoxib capsule is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, available as capsules containing 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg and 400 mg celecoxib for oral administration. The chemical name is 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)- 3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl] benzenesulfonamide and is a diaryl-substituted pyrazole. The molecular weight is 381.38. Its molecular formula is C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, and it has the following chemical structure:



Celecoxib is a white to off-white powder with a pKa of 11.1 (sulfonamide moiety). Celecoxib is hydrophobic (log P is 3.5) and is practically insoluble in aqueous media at physiological pH.

The inactive ingredients in celecoxib capsules include: croscarmellose sodium, gelatin, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, povidone, sodium lauryl sulfate and titanium dioxide. Details of non-toxicological components of the imprinting ink are given below. 50 mg capsule contains shellac, propylene glycol, sodium hydroxide, titanium dioxide, povidone and FD&C Red #40 aluminum lake. 100 mg capsule contains shellac, propylene glycol, ammonia and FD & C Blue No. # 2 aluminum lake. 200 mg capsule contains shellac, propylene glycol, ammonia and yellow iron oxide. 400 mg capsule contains shellac, propylene glycol, ammonia, yellow iron oxide, and FD & C Blue No. # 1 aluminum lake.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Celecoxib has analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic properties. The mechanism of action of celecoxib is believed to be due to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, primarily via inhibition of COX-2.

Celecoxib is a potent inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis *in vitro*. Celecoxib concentrations reached during therapy have produced *in vivo* effects. Prostaglandins sensitize afferent nerves and potentiate the action of bradykinin in inducing pain in animal models. Prostaglandins are mediators of inflammation. Since celecoxib is an inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis, its mode of action may be due to a decrease of prostaglandins in peripheral tissues.

### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

#### Platelets

In clinical trials using normal volunteers, celecoxib capsules at single doses up to 800 mg and multiple doses of 600 mg twice daily for up to 7 days duration (higher than recommended therapeutic doses) had no effect on reduction of platelet aggregation or increase in bleeding time. Because of its lack of platelet effects, celecoxib capsules are not a substitute for aspirin for cardiovascular prophylaxis. It is not known if there are any effects of celecoxib on platelets that may contribute to the increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic adverse events associated with the use of celecoxib capsules.

#### Fluid Retention

Inhibition of PGE2 synthesis may lead to sodium and water retention through increased reabsorption in the renal medullary thick ascending loop of Henle and perhaps other segments of the distal nephron. In the collecting ducts, PGE2 appears to inhibit water reabsorption by counteracting the action of antidiuretic hormone.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Celecoxib exhibits dose-proportional increase in exposure after oral administration up to 200 mg twice daily and less than proportional increase at higher doses. It has extensive distribution and high protein binding. It is primarily metabolized by CYP2C9 with a half-life of approximately 11 hours.

#### Absorption

Peak plasma levels of celecoxib occur approximately 3 hours after an oral dose. Under fasting conditions, both peak plasma levels (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the curve (AUC) are roughly dose-proportional up to 200 mg twice daily, at higher doses there are less than proportional increases in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC (see *Food Effects*). Absolute bioavailability studies have not been conducted.

With multiple dosing, steady-state conditions are reached on or before Day 5. The pharmacokinetic parameters of celecoxib in a group of healthy subjects are shown in Table 4.

C <sub>max</sub> , ng/mL	T <sub>max</sub> , hr	Mean (%CV) PK Parameter Values		
		Effective t <sub>1/2</sub> , hr	V <sub>d</sub> /F, L	CL/F, L/hr
705 (38)	2.8 (37)	11.2 (31)	429 (34)	27.7 (26)

Subjects under fasting conditions (n=36, 19 to 52 yrs.)

#### Food Effects

When celecoxib capsules were taken with a high fat meal, peak plasma levels were delayed for about 1 to 2 hours with an increase in total absorption (AUC) of 10% to 20%. Under fasting conditions, at doses above 200 mg, there is less than a proportional increase in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC, which is thought to be due to the low solubility of the drug in aqueous media.

Coadministration of celecoxib capsules with an aluminum- and magnesium-containing antacid resulted in a reduction in plasma celecoxib concentrations with a decrease of 37% in C<sub>max</sub> and 10% in AUC. Celecoxib capsules, at doses up to 200 mg twice daily, can be administered without regard to timing of meals. Higher doses (400 mg twice daily) should be administered with food to improve absorption.

In healthy adult volunteers, the overall systemic exposure (AUC) of celecoxib was equivalent when celecoxib was administered as intact capsules or capsule contents sprinkled on applejuice. There were no significant alterations in C<sub>max</sub>, T<sub>max</sub>, or t<sub>1/2</sub> after administration of capsule contents on applejuice (see *Dosage and Administration (2)*).

#### Distribution

In healthy subjects, celecoxib is highly protein bound (~97%) within the clinical dose range. *In vitro* studies indicate that celecoxib binds primarily to albumin, and, to a lesser extent, α<sub>1</sub>-acid glycoprotein. The apparent volume of distribution at steady state (V<sub>d</sub>) is approximately 400 mL, suggesting extensive distribution into the tissues. Celecoxib is not preferentially bound to red blood cells.

#### Elimination

**Metabolism**

Celecoxib metabolism is primarily mediated via CYP2C9. Three metabolites, a primary alcohol, the corresponding carboxylic acid and its glucuronide conjugate, have been identified in human plasma. These metabolites are inactive as COX-1 or COX-2 inhibitors.

#### Excretion

Celecoxib is eliminated predominantly by hepatic metabolism with little (<2%) unchanged drug recovered in the urine and feces. Following a single oral dose of radiolabeled drug, approximately 57% of the dose was excreted in the feces and 27% was excreted into the urine. The primary metabolite in both urine and feces was the carboxylic acid metabolite (73% of dose) with low amounts of the glucuronide also appearing in the urine. It appears that the low solubility of the drug prolongs the absorption process making terminal half-life (t<sub>1/2</sub>) determinations more variable. The effective half-life is approximately 11 hours under fasting conditions. The apparent plasma clearance (CL/F) is about 500 mL/min.

#### Specific Populations

#### Geriatric

At steady state, elderly subjects (over 65 years old) had a 40% higher C<sub>max</sub> and a 50% higher AUC compared to the young subjects. In elderly males, celecoxib plasma clearance was higher than in younger males, but these increases are predominantly due to lower body weight in elderly females. Dose adjustment in the elderly is not generally necessary. However, for patients of less than 50 kg in body weight, initiate therapy at the lowest recommended dose (see *Use in Specific Populations (8.5)*).

#### Pediatric

The steady state pharmacokinetics of celecoxib administered as an investigational oral suspension was evaluated in 152 JRA patients 2 years to 17 years of age weighing  $\geq$ 10 kg with pauciarticular or polyarticular course JRA and in patients with systemic onset JRA. Population pharmacokinetic analysis indicated that the total clearance (adjusted for body weight) of celecoxib increases less than proportionally to increasing weight, with 10 kg and 25 kg patients predicted to have 40% and 24% lower clearance, respectively, compared with a 70 kg adult RA patient. Twice-daily administration of 50 mg capsules to JRA patients weighing  $\geq$ 12 kg to  $\leq$ 25 kg and 100 mg capsules to JRA patients weighing  $\geq$ 25 kg should achieve plasma concentrations similar to those observed in a clinical trial that demonstrated the non-inferiority of celecoxib to naproxen 7.5 mg/kg twice daily (see *Dosage and Administration (2.4)*). Celecoxib has not been studied in JRA patients under the age of 2 years, in patients with body weight less than 10 kg (22 lbs), or beyond 24 weeks.

#### Race

Meta-analysis of pharmacokinetic studies has suggested an approximately 40% higher AUC of celecoxib in Blacks compared to Caucasians. The cause and clinical significance of this finding is unknown.

A pharmacokinetic study in subjects with mild (Child-Pugh Class A) and moderate (Child-Pugh Class B) hepatic impairment has shown that steady-state celecoxib AUC is increased about 40% and 180%, respectively, above that seen in healthy control subjects. Therefore, the daily recommended dose of celecoxib capsules should be reduced by approximately 50% in patients with moderate (Child-Pugh Class B) hepatic impairment. Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C) have not been studied. The use of celecoxib capsules in patients with severe hepatic impairment is not recommended (see *Dosage and Administration (2.7)* and *Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*).

#### Renal Impairment

In a cross study comparison, celecoxib AUC was approximately 40% lower in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (GFR 35 mL to 60 mL/min) than that seen in subjects with normal renal function. No significant relationship was found between GFR and celecoxib clearance. Patients with severe renal insufficiency have not been studied. Similar to other NSAIDs, celecoxib capsules are not recommended in patients with severe renal insufficiency (see *Warnings and Precautions (5.6)*).

## Drug Interaction Studies

*In vitro* studies indicate that celecoxib is not an inhibitor of cytochrome P450 2C9, 2C19 or 3A4.

*In vivo* studies have shown the following:

**Aspirin**

When NSAIDs were administered with aspirin, the protein binding of NSAIDs were reduced, although the clearance of free NSAID was not altered. The clinical significance of this interaction is not known. See Table 3 for clinically significant drug interactions of NSAIDs with aspirin (see *Drug Interactions (7)*).

#### Lithium

*In vivo* studies conducted in healthy subjects, mean steady-state lithium plasma levels increased approximately 17% in subjects receiving lithium 450 mg twice daily with celecoxib capsules 200 mg twice daily as compared to subjects receiving lithium alone (see *Drug Interactions (7)*).

#### Fluconazole

Concomitant administration of fluconazole at 200 mg once daily resulted in a two-fold increase in celecoxib plasma concentration. This increase is due to the inhibition of celecoxib metabolism via P450 2C9 by fluconazole (see *Drug Interactions (7)*).

#### Other Drugs

The effects of celecoxib on the pharmacokinetics and/or pharmacodynamics of glyburide, ketorolacoe, celecoxib,