

A glass of water with ice cubes is on the left side of the image. Two white, oval-shaped pills are on the surface in front of the glass. The background is a solid blue color.

Business Insights

Daily therapy area NewsWires

Daily competitor NewsWires

Delivered every morning

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Reuters Health is a daily-updated, award-winning comprehensive source of global healthcare, medical and pharmaceutical sector breaking news - publishing approximately 75-100 breaking news stories each day. Each news story published by Reuters Health is original and is written by Reuters Health's in-house team of specialized medical and healthcare journalists.

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- Oncology
- Mental Health
- Women's Health
- Orthopedics
- Cardiology
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- Rheumatology
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- Gastroenterology
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- Urology

Reuters Health eMail NewsWires - by Top 10 leading companies

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The top 10 leading pharmaceutical companies covered in this NewsWire are as follows:

- AstraZeneca
- Sanofi-Aventis
- Bristol Myers Squibb Co.
- Eli Lilly and Company
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- GlaxoSmithKline Plc
- Johnson & Johnson
- Merck & Co Inc.
- Roche

Reuters Health Information NewsWires

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 - Press releases and press briefings from healthcare stakeholders
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-

Coverage

Each subject-focused Reuters Health NewsWire will report on topical news from one of the twelve therapy areas listed on page 1. Depending on the breaking developments at the time of transmission, the topics can range from clinical and regulatory developments to public health issues. Below is a full listing of the various subject categories that can be found within the full output of each available therapeutic-focused NewsWire:

- Clinical
- Epidemiology
- R&D
- Regulatory
- Public Health
- Legal
- Industry
- Drug & Device Development
- Managed Care
- Professional Development

Reuters Health NewsWires - Sample Extracts

Reuters Health Oncology NewsWire - Sample extract

Oncology Headlines: November 1, 2004

Oncology
NewsWire

Epidemiology

Liver cancer fastest growing malignancy in US: Liver Cancer Network

Last Updated: 2004-11-01 15:41:11 -0400 (Reuters Health) By Martha Kerr.

BOSTON (Reuters Health) - A preliminary report from the Liver Cancer Network shows that hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the fastest growing cancer in the US and hepatitis C infection is involved in more than half of cases, investigators told attendees here Monday at the 55th annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

The Network has currently enrolled approximately 250 patients to date from 6 centers. Serum has been collected and demographics, risk factors for HCC, liver disease, tumor characteristics and treatment protocols recorded. Most HCC patients (87%) had underlying liver disease and more than half (52%) of those enrolled had hepatitis C infection. A history of alcohol abuse was involved in 20% of those cases, with a history of alcohol abuse present in 12% of the group overall. Eleven percent had hepatitis B infection and 2% had hemochromatosis.

Lead investigator Dr. Alex S. Befeler of St. Louis, said "survival is significantly better for those who were asymptomatic at presentation or who were candidates for liver transplantation". He added that a major problem has been that oncologists and tumor registries have poor staging systems. **"The UNOS organ allocation system is best," Dr. Befeler told Reuters Health. The Tumor Node Metastasis (TMN) system, which classifies patients according to tumor size, "doesn't work very well," he noted, nor does the Barcelona Clinic Staging System or Japan's Okuda system - the original staging system for HCC...**

Reuters Health Men's Health NewsWire - Sample extract

Men's Health Headlines: October 6, 2004

Men's Health
NewsWire

Drug & Device Development

Gene therapy may treat erectile dysfunction

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters Health) - The first three patients undergoing a "revolutionary" phase I human gene therapy trial for erectile dysfunction have not developed any treatment-related adverse events, according to preliminary results released here this week at the 11th World Congress of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research. A phase II trial might start by the end of 2005 and the therapy might reach the clinical setting "within next 7 to 8 years", said lead author Dr. Arnold Melman, of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Dr. Melman and colleagues are testing the safety of a single intracavernous injection of the recombinant gene maxi-K. The trial was launched in the spring of 2004 at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

All three volunteers were diagnosed with moderate to severe erectile dysfunction. They received injections of low doses of the product, so-called hMaxi-K. At 1- to 5-month follow-up, none of the men had developed side effects or had vector detected in semen samples, authors said. According to Dr. Melman, six more patients will be recruited and tested by the end of this year. Eventually, about 400 patients will participate in clinical trials before the treatment is submitted for FDA approval.

The approach has already been tested successfully in rats with erectile dysfunction. In humans, it is estimated that each dose will cost around \$400 and boosts might be needed every 6 months. "In the best case, the method will work by itself. On the other hand, you might be able to use lower doses of Viagra, Cialis or Levitra or improve their efficacy," Dr. Melman told Reuters Health...

Each Reuters Health Information news story is value-added original text

Reuters Health NewsWires - Sample Extracts

Infectious Diseases NewsWire - Sample extract

Infectious Diseases Headlines: October 21, 2004

Infectious Diseases
NewsWire

Clinical

Adjunctive dexamethasone improves survival in tuberculous meningitis

Last Updated: 2004-10-21 11:13:17 -0400 (Reuters Health)

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Early adjunctive dexamethasone improves survival in adolescents and adults with tuberculous meningitis receiving standard anti-tuberculosis drugs, according to results of a study conducted in two hospitals in Vietnam. The addition of the corticosteroid does not appear to reduce severe disability in survivors.

"This trial suggests that adults with tuberculous meningitis should be given dexamethasone and anti-tuberculosis drugs at the earliest opportunity," Dr. Guy E. Thwaites from Oxford University in the UK told Reuters Health. "Dexamethasone should not be reserved for those with more severe disease as previously suggested, but given to all," he said.

In the study, 545 subjects with tuberculous meningitis, with or without HIV infection, were randomly assigned to adjunctive dexamethasone or placebo in addition to standard anti-TB medication. Patients with grade I disease received two weeks of IV dexamethasone followed by four weeks of oral dexamethasone.

Patients with grade II and III disease received four weeks of IV and four weeks of oral dexamethasone.

After nine months of follow up, treatment with dexamethasone was associated with a significant 0.69 relative risk of death, the team reports in the October 21st issue of The New England Journal of Medicine...

Rheumatology NewsWire - Sample extract

Rheumatology Headlines: October 20, 2004

Rheumatology
NewsWire

Clinical

Higher vitamin D levels linked to better knee function in arthritis

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Boston researchers report a link between low serum levels of vitamin D and decreased knee function in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee.

At the 2004 annual scientific meeting of the American College of Rheumatology that is underway in San Antonio, Dr. David Felson of Boston University presented his team's findings of 221 subjects recruited from the Boston VA Medical Center. Mean age was 67 and, 63% were male. All had knee arthritis confirmed by radiographic findings and reported knee pain on most days in the month preceding recruitment.

The investigators measured serum vitamin D levels at baseline and again at 15 and 30 months. They compared change in vitamin D levels with changes in knee pain, physical function and muscle strength during the 30-month study period. The researchers defined vitamin D deficiency as serum levels of 20 ng/mL or lower.

"We found a relationship between serum levels of vitamin D and knee function," lead investigator Dr. Kristin Baker told Reuters Health. Low levels were associated with higher levels of pain and disability and to a lesser extent muscle weakness.

"We also found that about 50% of the population were deficient in vitamin D," Dr. Baker said. "Almost 100% of the subjects with muscle pain were vitamin D deficient" in previous studies conducted in Minnesota, she added..."

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Reuters Health NewsWires - Sample Extracts

Top 10 Leading Pharmaceutical Companies extract

Headlines: November 4, 2004

Competitor
NewsWires

Industry

[AstraZeneca recalls faulty asthma inhalers](#)

Last Updated: 2004-11-04 11:56:31 -0400 (Reuters Health) By Richard Woodman

LONDON (Agence de Presse Medicale for Reuters Health) - British drug regulators said on Thursday that AstraZeneca was recalling 13 batches of its Pulmicort (budesonide) asthma inhaler from the UK market as a precautionary measure. The action was being taken "due to a small number of inhalers failing to operate or needing a higher than normal pressure to actuate," the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency said in a statement.

In a separate statement earlier this week, the agency said the company was recalling a single batch of its short-acting beta2-agonist Bricanyl (terbutaline) for the same reason. A company spokeswoman said several other markets, including France, Ireland and the Benelux countries, were affected by the recall. In the case of France, the problem was limited to the 100-microgram dose of Pulmicort. She said the affected inhalers were stiff to operate, though if patients did manage to fire them they would get the correct dose. The problem was believed to be linked to a recent move by the company that manufactures the inhalers for AstraZeneca.

Pulmicort, which had sales of \$211 million in the third quarter, is an inhaled anti-inflammatory glucocorticosteroid. It is used primarily for once or twice-daily maintenance treatment of asthma though it is also indicated for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in some countries...

Top 10 Leading Pharmaceutical Companies extract

Headlines: November 4, 2004

Competitor
NewsWires

Public Health

[Cardiovascular risks for Merck's Vioxx were evident in 2000](#)

Last Updated: 2004-11-04 18:30:09 -0400 (Reuters Health)

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - The results of a cumulative meta-analysis suggest that the cardiovascular adverse effects related to rofecoxib (Vioxx) were evident in 2000, according to a report in The Lancet, to be published online November 5th. "The licensing of Vioxx and its continued use in the face of unambiguous evidence of harm have been public-health catastrophes," Lancet editor Dr. Richard Horton comments in an accompanying editorial.

Drugmaker Merck withdrew the cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitor from the market because of adverse cardiovascular effects observed in the Adenomatous Polyp Prevention on Vioxx (APPROVe) study (see Reuters Health reports, August 25, September 30 and October 6, 2004).

Senior investigator Dr. Matthias Egger, at the University of Berne, Switzerland, and colleagues conducted their meta-analyses of 18 randomized controlled trials comparing rofecoxib with another NSAID or placebo submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration between 1998 and 2001. They also examined the results of 11 observational studies. Trial duration ranged from 4 weeks to more than 1 year.

By the end of 2000, there were 52 MIs documented among 20,742 patients, with a relative risk of 2.30. Altogether there were 64 MIs among 21,432 patients, 52 in the rofecoxib arms and 12 in the control groups. Patients appeared to be at risk even if the drug was taken for only a few months, and the toxicity did not appear to be dose-dependent...

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- The Outlook for Cardiovascular Risk Factors  Cardiology NewsWire
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