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Naproxcinod (NDA 22-478)

United States Food and Drug Administration
Joint Meeting of the Arthritis Advisory Committee
with the Drug Safety and Risk Management
Advisory Committee
12 May 2010

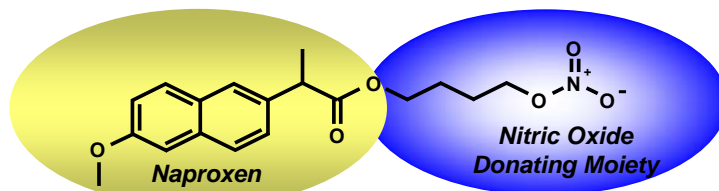
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Introduction and Background

Elizabeth Robinson, PhD
President
NicOx Research Institute Srl

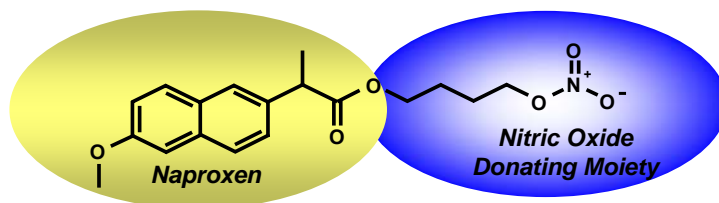
NicOx Research Platform



Naproxcinod

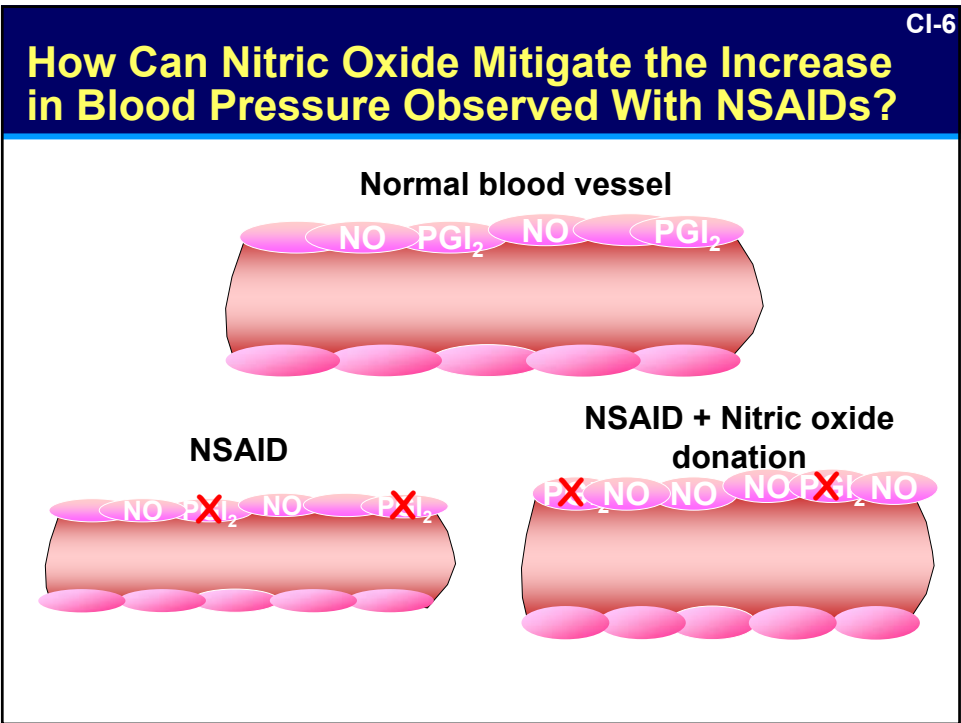
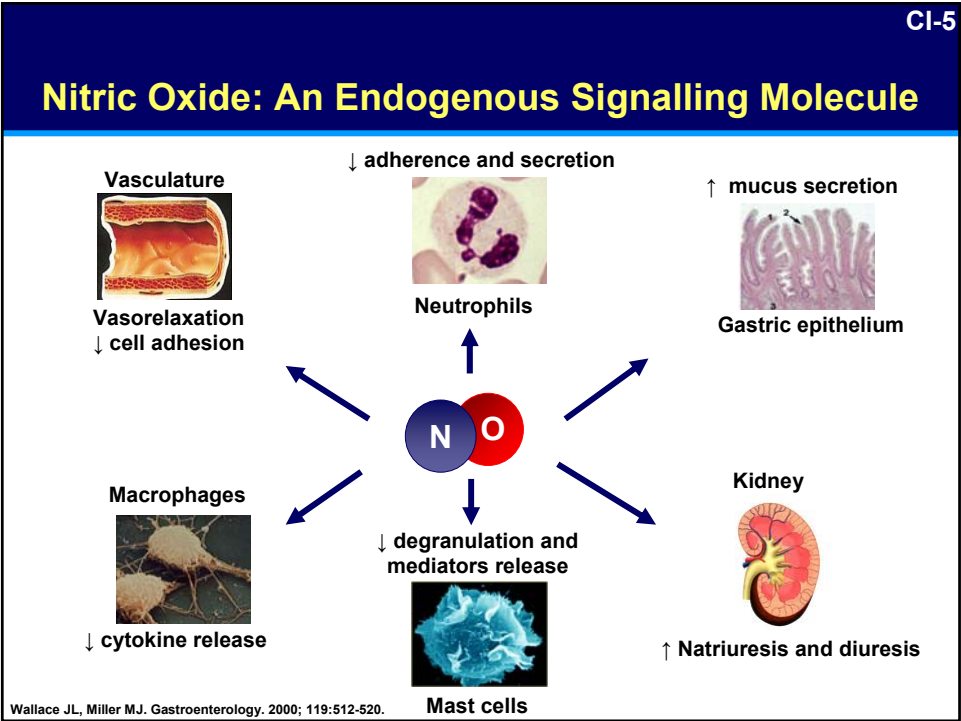
Product Concept

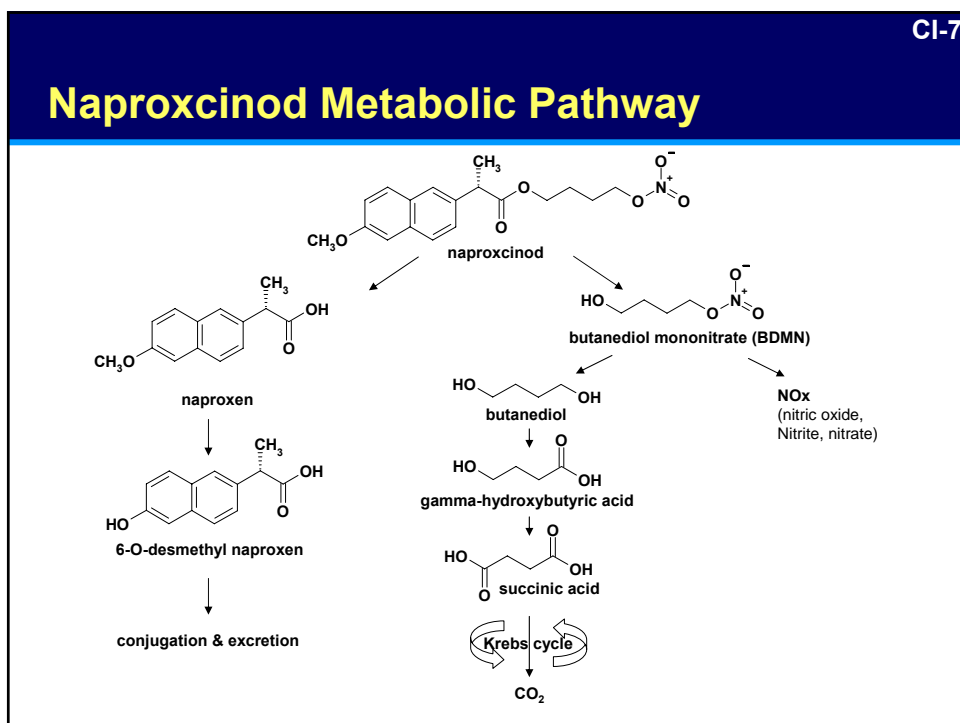
- Established efficacy of NSAID (naproxen)
- Pharmacological effects of nitric oxide



Naproxcinod

- Proposed indication: Relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis (OA)





- CI-8
- ## Naproxcinod: Comprehensive Development Program
- **35 registration clinical trials**
 - **Large safety database**
 - Over 6,700 patients in trials
 - Over 4,000 subjects/patients exposed to naproxcinod
 - **Special Investigation Studies**
 - 24-hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM)
 - Exploratory GI endoscopy

Naproxcinod Is an Effective NSAID With a Favorable Safety Profile for OA Patients

- **Effective for the relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis (OA)**
 - 375 mg twice daily
 - 750 mg twice daily
- **Safe and well-tolerated in OA patients**
- **Lower impact on blood pressure**

Class warnings for GI, CV and hypertension same as NSAIDs class

Presenters

Marc Hochberg, MD

Professor of Medicine
Head, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
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Management of OA: Rationale for Naproxcinod

Pascal Pfister, MD, MFPM

NicOx, Chief Scientific Officer
Head of R&D

Naproxcinod Efficacy and Overall Safety

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Blood Pressure Effects of Naproxcinod

Michael Weber, MD

Professor of Medicine
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Importance of SBP Levels in Patients with OA

Marc Hochberg, MD

Management of OA: Benefit Risk of Naproxcinod

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**Management of OA:
Rationale for Naproxcinod**

Marc C. Hochberg, MD, MPH

Professor of Medicine
Head, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

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Construct of OA: 2010

- **Most common form of arthritis**
- **Incidence and prevalence are higher in women than in men**
- **Accounts for more functional limitation, work loss, and physical disability than any other chronic disease**
- **Most common indication for total joint replacement**
- **Associated with excess mortality**
 - **Concomitant GI and CV disease**

Hochberg MC. *Semin Arthritis Rheum.* 2010;39:321-2.

Management of OA: OARSI Recommendation #1

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- **Optimal management of OA requires a combination of non-pharmacological and pharmacological modalities**

OARSI = Osteoarthritis Research Society International;
Zhang W, et al. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*. 2008;16:137-162.

Summary of Evidence Nonselective NSAIDs

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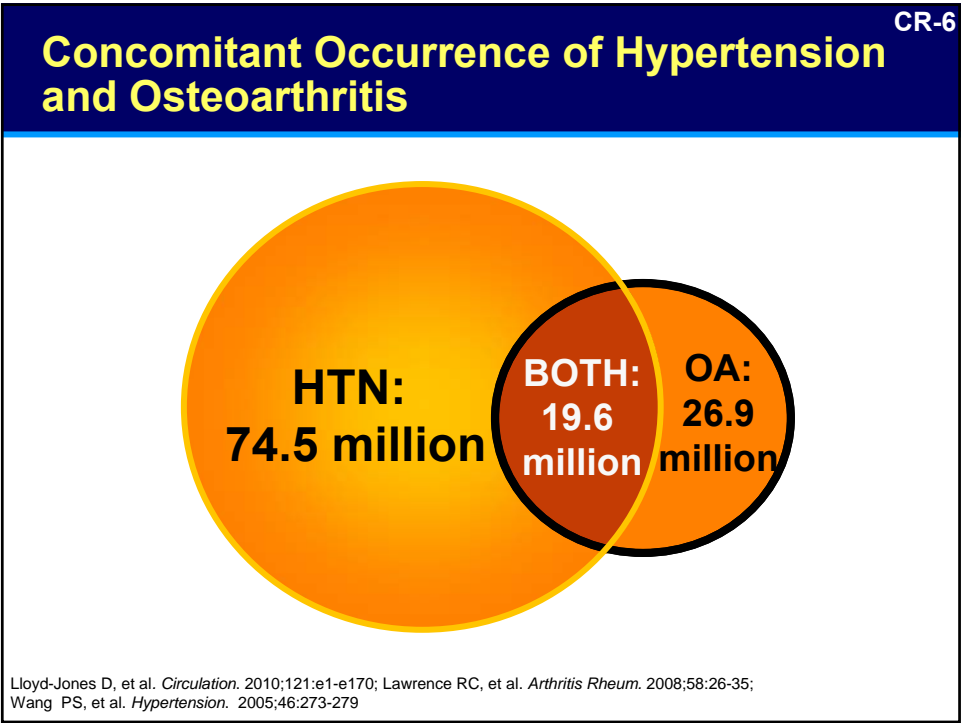
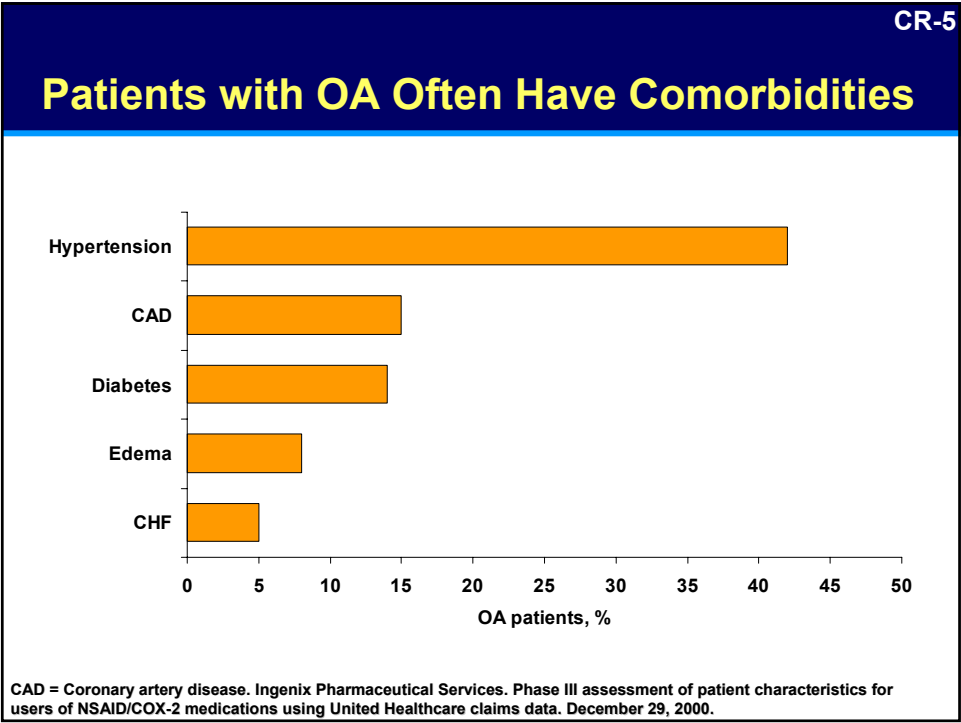
Benefits: Symptom Relief

- **Good evidence for superior efficacy versus both placebo and acetaminophen**
- **Good evidence for comparable efficacy with each other**

Harms: GI, CV, and Other

- **Good evidence that all are associated with comparable, dose-dependent increases in risk of serious GI events versus nonuse; misoprostol or PPIs can attenuate this risk**
- **Fair evidence that high doses of ibuprofen and diclofenac carry risk of serious CV events compared with coxibs**
- **Fair evidence that naproxen is associated with lower risk of CV events than coxibs**

PPI = Proton pump inhibitor.
<http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/products/2/67/Analgesicsexecsum.pdf>



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Effects of NSAIDs on Blood Pressure

- Meta-analyses included data from
 - 54 studies with 123 treatment arms including 1324 patients (1213 [94%] hypertensive)^a
 - 50 studies with 771 patients^b
- Nonselective NSAIDs raise MAP by ~3-5 mm Hg
- This effect on MAP was greater in:
 - Patients with hypertension
 - Hypertensive patients treated with ACE inhibitors, diuretics, or β -blockers

MAP = Mean arterial pressure.

^aPope JE, et al. *Arch Intern Med.* 1993;153:477-489; ^bJohnson AG, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 1994;121:289-300.

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NSAID Class Label: Blood Pressure Warning

HYPERTENSION


NSAIDs can lead to onset of new hypertension or worsening of pre-existing hypertension, either of which may contribute to increased incidence of CV events.

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Importance of Systolic Blood Pressure Reduction at the Population Level

Reduction in SBP mmHg	% Reduction in Mortality		
	Stroke	CHD	Total
2	-6	-4	-3
3	-8	-5	-4
5	-14	-9	-7

National High Blood Pressure Education Coordination Program Committee.
Whelton P et al. *JAMA* 2002;288:1882-1888.




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There Remains an Unmet Medical Need for the Management of OA

- The benefits and risks of NSAID use must be balanced
 - Benefits: Relief of symptoms and improvement in function
 - Major risks: Cardiovascular and Gastrointestinal safety
- More therapeutic options are needed that provide the benefits of NSAIDs while mitigating the safety concerns of NSAIDs
 - Increases in blood pressure

CE-1

The logo for NicOx, featuring the word "NicOx" in a white sans-serif font. The "O" is stylized as a white circle with a blue dot in the center, and the "x" is blue.

Naproxcinod
Efficacy and Overall Safety

Pascal Pfister, MD, MFPM

NicOx, Chief Scientific Officer
Head of R&D

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Overview

- **Development objectives**
- **Efficacy**
 - Clinical program
 - Phase III OA studies
- **Safety**
 - Overall database
 - OA Phase 2/3 studies

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Naproxcinod—Development Objectives

- To demonstrate efficacy for the relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis vs placebo
- To demonstrate the overall safety and tolerability profile of naproxcinod
- Also to assess the pharmacological effect of the Nitric Oxide (NO) donating moiety on Blood Pressure

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Clinical Overview

35 Studies—Over 6700 Subjects or Patients

- Efficacy and safety studies in OA
 - Two dose ranging studies
 - Three pivotal Phase 3 studies
 - One long term safety extension study
- Special investigation studies
 - Blood pressure: 3 ABPM studies

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Naproxcinod Efficacy Profile

CE-6

Naproxcinod Dose Selection

- Two phase 2 dose-ranging studies [from 125 mg *bid* to 1125 mg *bid*]
 - Naproxcinod 375 mg *bid* was the lowest effective dose
 - Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* was the highest effective dose

CE-7

Three Adequate Well-Controlled Phase 3 OA Studies

	301	302	303
Indication	OA (Knee)	OA (Knee)	OA (Hip)
N of patients randomized	918	1011	810
Study design	Double-blind, randomized, multicenter, placebo and naproxen-controlled, parallel groups		
Duration	13 weeks <i>vs.</i> placebo (3 studies), 52 weeks <i>vs.</i> naproxen (302)		
Co-primary endpoints	Mean change from BL at Week 13 for naproxcinod <i>vs.</i> placebo – WOMAC™ pain subscale score – WOMAC™ physical function subscale score – Patients' overall rating of disease status		

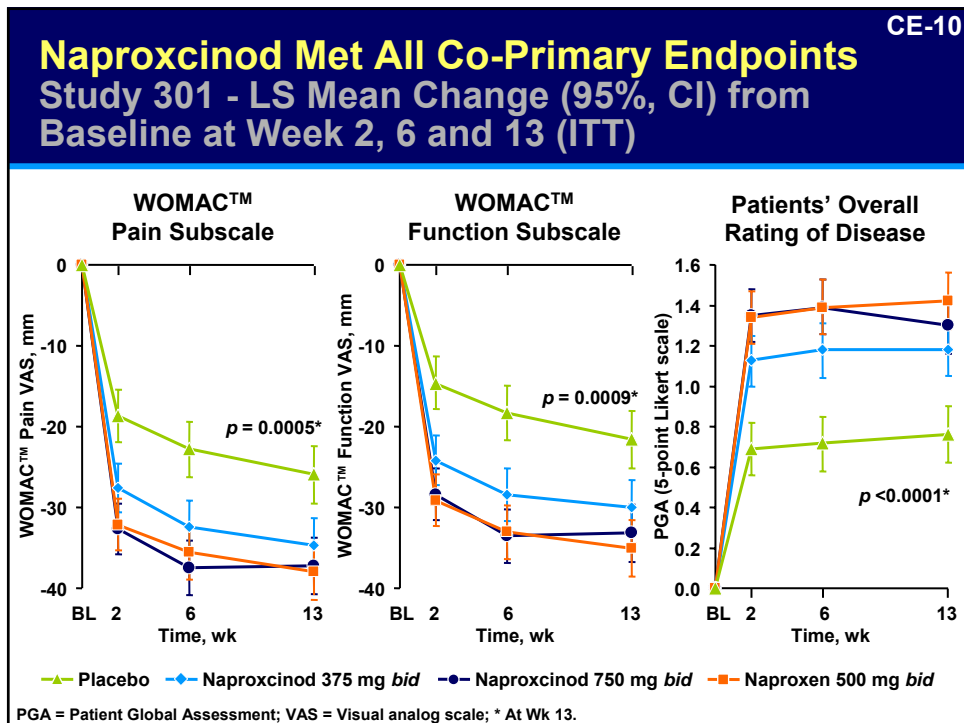
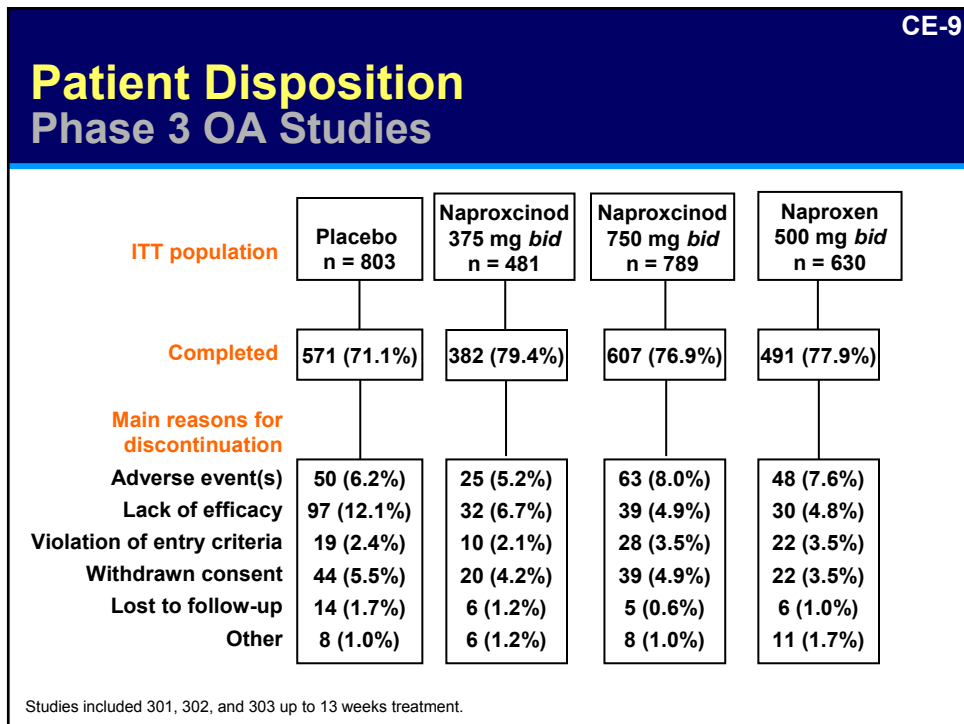
ITT = Intent to treat.

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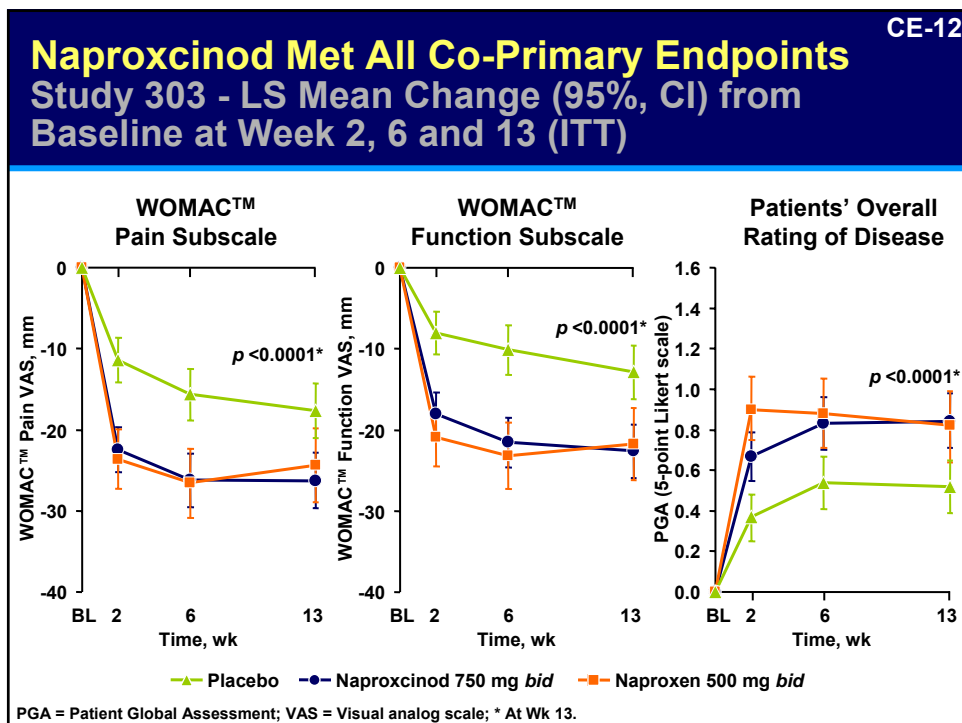
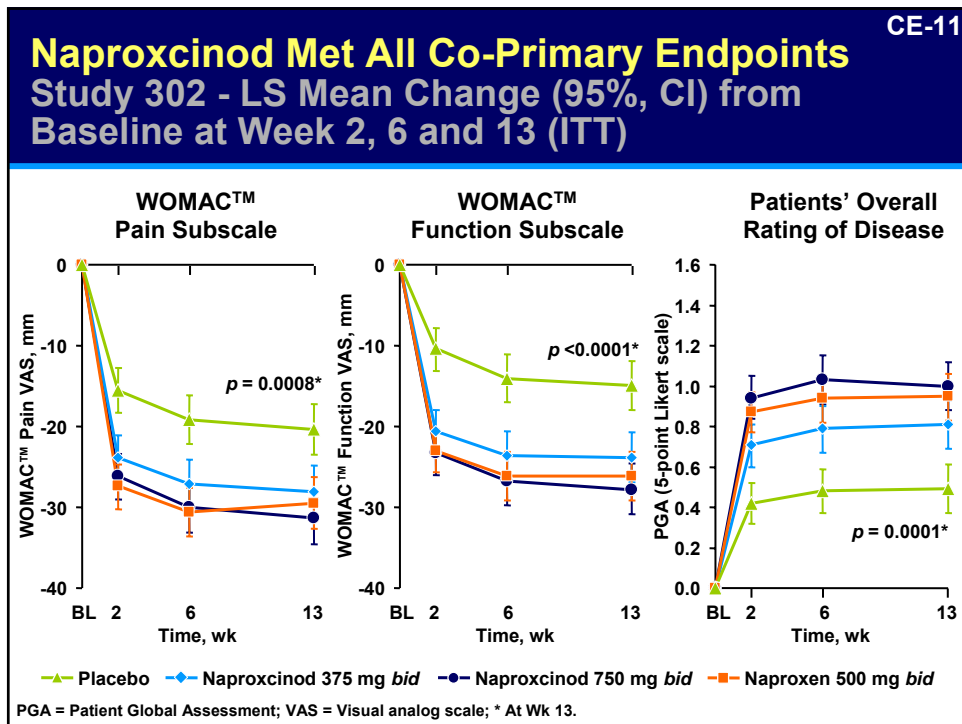
Population Demographics Phase 3 OA Studies

ITT Population (N = 2703)	Placebo (n = 803)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 630)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 481)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 789)	
Mean age, years (SD)	61.6 (9.4)	60.5 (9.6)	61.7 (9.7)	60.9 (9.7)
Age category, n (%)				
< 65 years	518 (65%)	328 (68%)	502 (64%)	420 (67%)
≥ 65 years	285 (36%)	153 (32%)	287 (36%)	209 (33%)
Females, n (%)	551 (69%)	352 (73%)	530 (67%)	435 (69%)
Caucasians, n (%)	698 (87%)	391 (81%)	694 (88%)	540 (86%)
African Americans, n (%)	87 (11%)	76 (16%)	81 (10%)	79 (12.5%)
BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	31.9 (7.1)	33.9 (8.0)	31.8 (7.2)	32.5 (7.4)

Studies included: HCT 3012-X-301, -302, -303.



03 Core Efficacy and Safety (CE)



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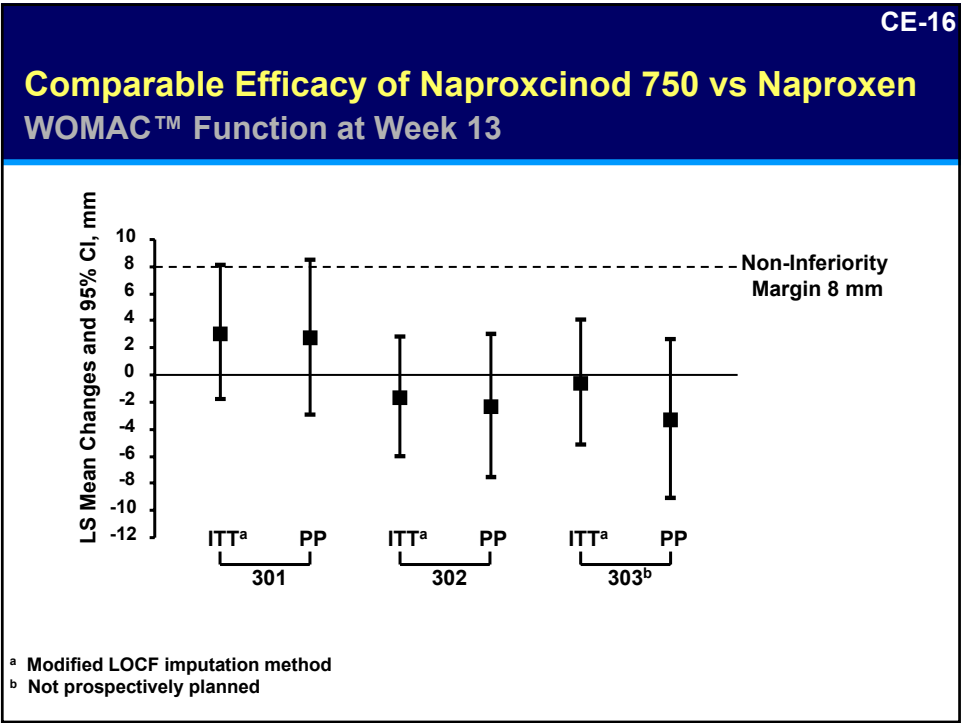
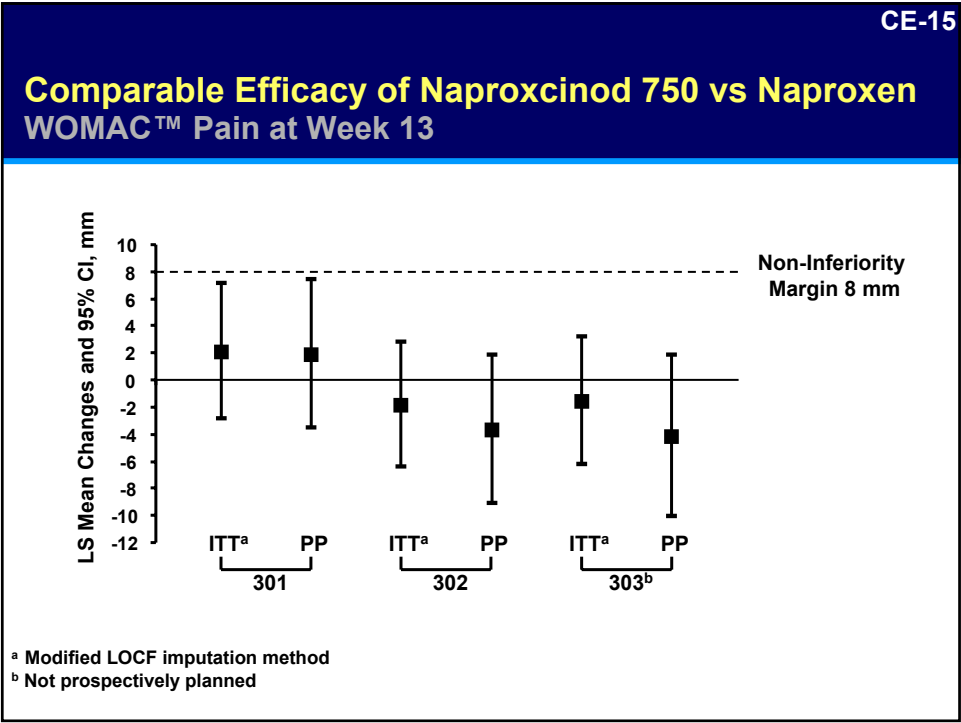
Rationale for Comparability Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* vs Naproxen 500 mg *bid*

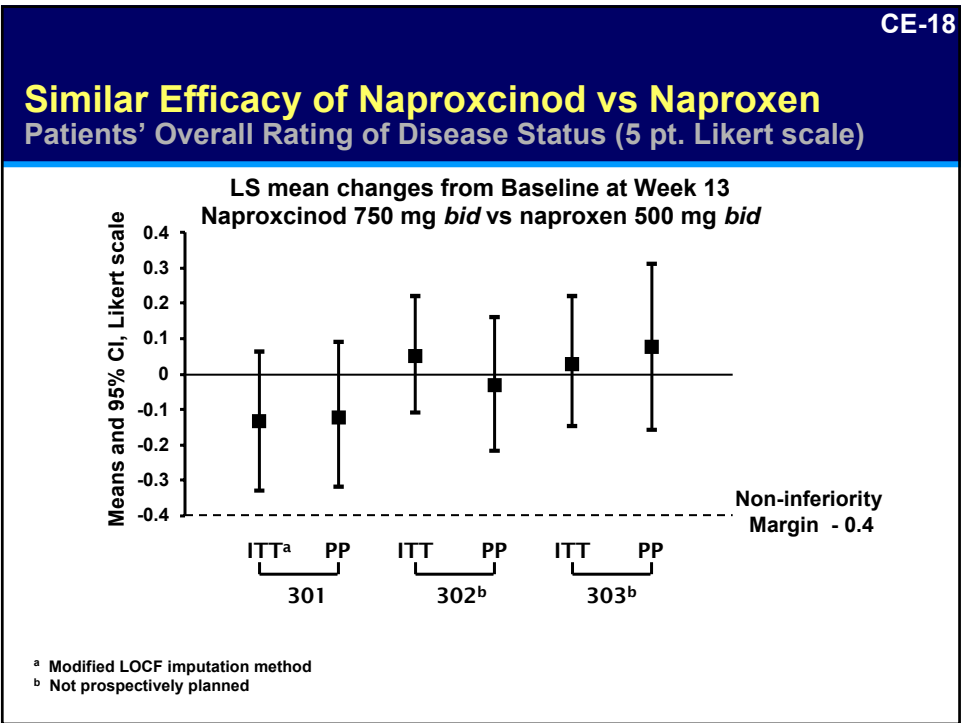
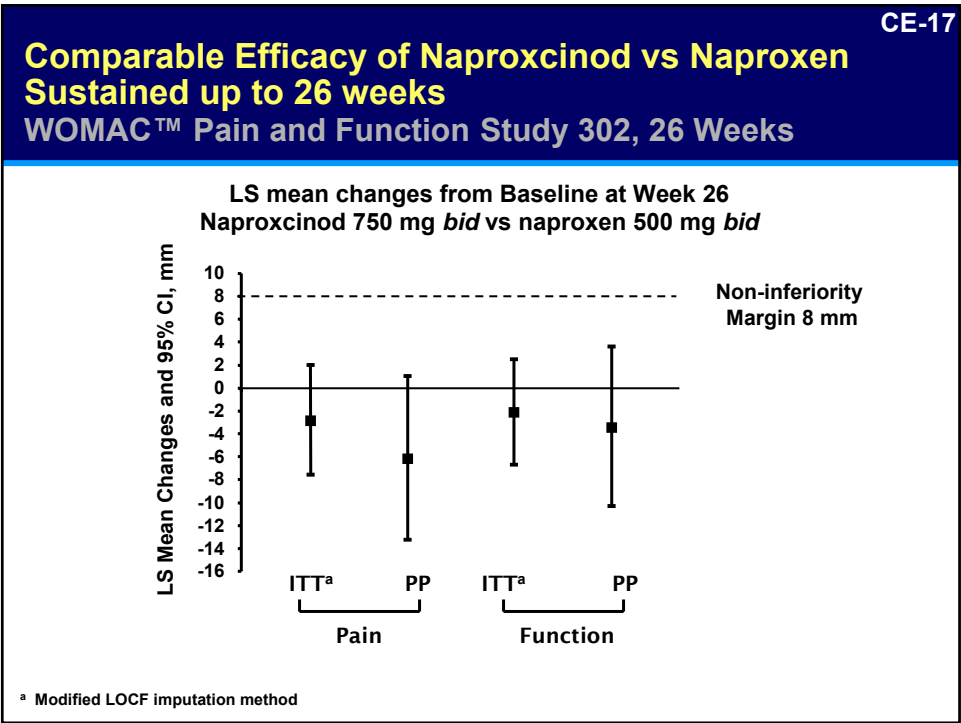
- Efficacy of naproxcinod (primary objective)
 - Superiority vs placebo in three adequate and well controlled studies
- Comparison with naproxen (secondary objective)
 - Safety characterization through BP studies
 - Efficacy comparison to inform risk/benefit assessment

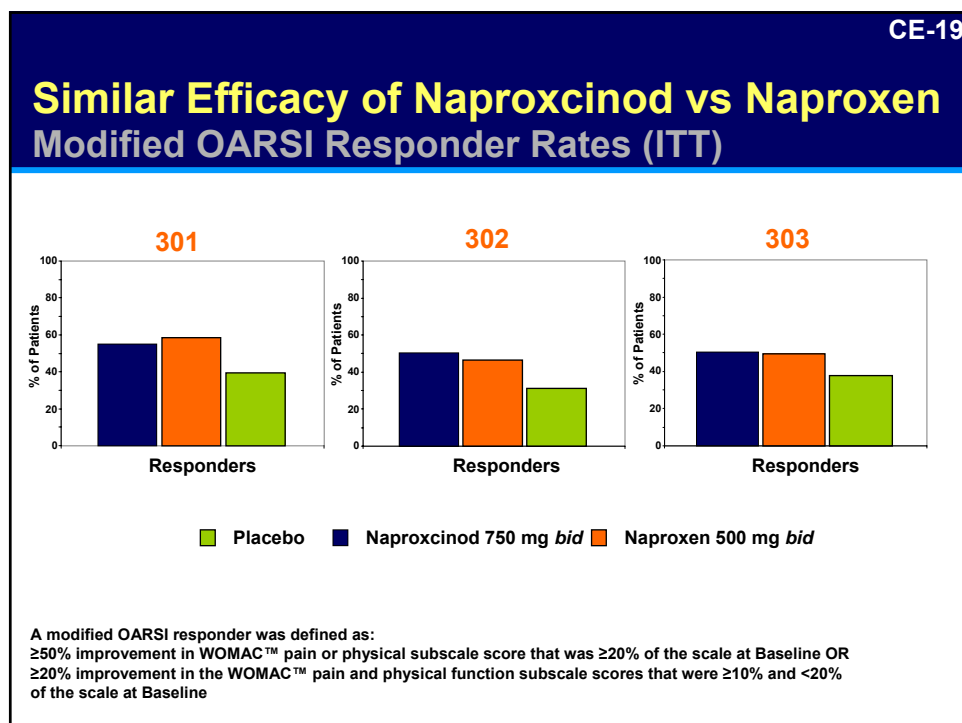
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WOMAC™ Pain and Function: Rationale of Non-Inferiority Margin

- Treatment effect size of naproxen (vs. placebo) in phase 2 dose-ranging studies was ~12 mm for WOMAC™ Pain and Function
- NicOx chose 70% of the treatment effect as the NI margin for Phase 3 studies: 8 mm
- No previously reported NSAIDs trials used a NI margin of less than 10 mm
- Few published studies to quantify the treatment effect size of naproxen







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Similar Numbers Needed to Treat Modified OARSI Responder Rates

	NNT
■ 301	
— Naproxcinod 750 mg <i>bid</i>	6
— Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i>	5
■ 302	
— Naproxcinod 750 mg <i>bid</i>	5
— Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i>	7
■ 303	
— Naproxcinod 750 mg <i>bid</i>	8
— Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i>	8

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Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* Comparable to Naproxen 500 mg *bid* Preponderance of Evidence

- **WOMAC Pain and Function:**
 - Upper bound of 95% Confidence Interval ~ 4 mm for 302 and 303^b
- **Similar findings:**
 - Modified OARSI responder rates
 - Numbers Needed to Treat^b
 - Discontinuation due to lack of efficacy or worsening of disease
 - Patient reported Outcomes:
 - Patient overall rating of disease status
 - QOL (SF36)

^b Not prospectively planned

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Efficacy Summary

- **Substantial evidence of effectiveness**
 - Three, adequate and well-controlled trials in patients with OA of the hip or knee
- **The efficacy of naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* is comparable to that of naproxen 500 mg *bid***

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Naproxcinod Safety Profile

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The Naproxcinod Safety Database Far Exceeds ICH Requirements All Studies

Total daily dose, n (%) ^a	Duration of treatment (weeks)				
	Any	≥ 6	≥ 13	≥ 26	≥ 52
All naproxcinod	4023	2533 (63.0%)	1387 (34.5%)	893 (22.2%)	521 (13.0%)
Low dose (< 750 mg)	338	84 (24.9%)	0	0	0
750 mg	1341	864 (64.4%)	611 (45.6%)	463 (34.5%)	257 (19.2%)
375 mg <i>bid</i>	1007	788 (78.3%)	611 (60.7%)	463 (46.0%)	257 (25.5%)
1500 mg	2222	1440 (64.8%)	776 (34.9%)	430 (19.4%)	264 (11.9%)
750 mg <i>bid</i>	2156	1440 (66.8%)	776 (36.0%)	430 (19.9%)	264 (12.2%)
High dose (> 1500 mg)	306	92 (30.1%)	0	0	0

^a Percentages are based on the number of patients in each treatment group as applicable.

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Serious Adverse Events and Deaths

All Studies

n (%), [Event per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1412)	Naproxcinod			Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1633)
		All (n = 4023)	375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1007)	750mg <i>bid</i> (n = 2156)	
Any SAE	20 (1.4) [11]	75 (1.9) [8]	28 (2.8) [7]	43 (2.0) [8]	28 (1.7) [9]
Any Death	0	3 (<0.1) [<1]	3 (0.3) [<1]	0	1 (<0.1) [<1]

For the calculation of the number of events per 100 patient years, all episodes of an adverse event are counted (ie, all events during treatment and follow-up, including unique episode repeats). It is calculated within each treatment group as: [(number of events) / ((sum of durations of study drug exposure for all patients)/365.25)]*100.

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Adverse Events by Selected SOC

All Studies

n (%), [Event per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1412)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1633)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1007)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 2156)	
Any AE	667 (47.2) [878]	602 (59.8) [359]	1230 (57.1) [656]	888 (54.4) [817]
GI Disorders	234 (16.6) [183]	203 (20.2) [64]	520 (24.1) [149]	394 (24.1) [206]
Nervous System Disorders	236 (16.7) [242]	121 (12.0) [46]	374 (17.3) [161]	256 (15.7) [207]
Skin and Sub. Tissue Disorders	37 (2.6) [21]	50 (5.0) [12]	81 (3.8) [17]	65 (4.0) [24]
Renal and Urinary Dis.	10 (0.7) [5]	22 (2.2) [5]	31 (1.4) [6]	22 (1.3) [7]
Cardiac Disorders	19 (1.3) [11]	21 (2.1) [4]	48 (2.2) [10]	24 (1.5) [7]
Vascular Disorders	29 (2.1) [16]	48 (4.8) [10]	71 (3.3) [12]	37 (2.3) [11]

SOC = System organ class

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Safety Profile In All OA Phase 2 & 3 Studies

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Baseline Comorbidities in OA Patients

All Placebo Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

		Naproxcinod		Naproxen
	Placebo (n = 1116)	375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 601)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1472)	500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
n (%)				
Hypertension	528 (47.3%)	277 (46.1%)	615 (41.8%)	503 (42.8%)
Dyslipidemia	379 (34.0%)	259 (43.1%)	362 (24.6%)	307 (26.1%)
Diabetes	127 (11.4%)	78 (13.0%)	157 (10.7%)	119 (10.1%)
≥1 risk factor for high cardiovascular risk*	706 (63.3%)	398 (66.2%)	795 (54.0%)	662 (56.3%)
High cardiovascular risk	315 (28.2%)	205 (34.1%)	335 (22.8%)	274 (23.3%)
Low-dose aspirin use (≤ 325 mg)	186 (16.7%)	128 (21.3%)	208 (14.1%)	156 (13.3%)

CV risk factors were diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia.
*High CV risk subjects were identified as having ≥ 2 of the following risk factors (diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia) OR a medical history of CV event.

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Summary of Adverse Events

All Placebo Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

n, (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1116)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 601)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1472)	
Patients with ≥ 1 AE	554 (49.6%) [787]	301 (50.1%) [688]	830 (56.4%) [1175]	682 (58.0%) [1159]
Patients with ≥ 1 GI AE	200 (17.9%) [158]	109 (18.1%) [156]	377 (25.6%) [288]	315 (26.8%) [302]
Patients with ≥ 1 CV ^a AE	60 (5.4%) [35]	38 (6.3%) [33]	102 (6.9%) [50]	84 (7.1%) [47]
Patients with ≥ 1 SAE	20 (1.8%) [11]	7 (1.2%) [8]	22 (1.5%) [10]	13 (1.1%) [8]
Patients with ≥ 1 GI SAE	4 (0.4%) [2]	1 (0.2%) [2]	6 (0.4%) [3]	3 (0.3%) [2]
Patients with ≥ 1 CV SAE	7 (0.6%) [4]	3 (0.5%) [2]	5 (0.3%) [2]	4 (0.3%) [2]
Patients who discontinued due to an AE	72 (6.5%) [53]	36 (6.0%) [41]	97 (6.6%) [63]	72 (6.1%) [58]
Deaths	0	0	0	1 (0.1%)

^a Percentages are based on the number of patients in each treatment group.
Patients with >1 event within a particular parameter are counted only once for that parameter

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AEs $\geq 3\%$ in Any Treatment Group

All Placebo Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

n (%)	Placebo (n = 1116)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 601)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1472)	
Headache	136 (12.2)	52 (8.7)	230 (15.6)	187 (15.9)
Dyspepsia	37 (3.3)	15 (2.5)	90 (6.1)	67 (5.7)
Diarrhea	45 (4.0)	22 (3.7)	72 (4.9)	49 (4.2)
Nausea	39 (3.5)	20 (3.3)	64 (4.3)	44 (3.7)
Nasopharyngitis	34 (3.0)	12 (2.0)	59 (4.0)	39 (3.3)
Back Pain	36 (3.2)	21 (3.5)	58 (3.9)	43 (3.7)
Abdominal Pain Upper	21 (1.9)	7 (1.2)	49 (3.3)	54 (4.6)
Dizziness	24 (2.2)	15 (2.5)	47 (3.2)	24 (2.0)
Arthralgia	29 (2.6)	16 (2.7)	46 (3.1)	45 (3.8)
Constipation	17 (1.5)	17 (2.8)	44 (3.0)	42 (3.6)
Abdominal Pain	17 (1.5)	3 (0.5)	28 (1.9)	38 (3.2)
U Resp Tract Infection	24 (2.2)	21 (3.5)	18 (1.2)	27 (2.3)

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Most Common Adverse Events Leading to Discontinuation ($\geq 0.4\%$ in Any Treatment Group)

All Placebo Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

n (%)	Placebo (n = 1116)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 601)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1472)	
Any AE	72 (6.5)	36 (6.0)	97 (6.6)	72 (6.1)
Dyspepsia	4 (0.4)	3 (0.5)	11 (0.7)	9 (0.8)
Arthralgia	1 (< 0.1)	4 (0.7)	3 (0.2)	1 (< 0.1)
Headache	7 (0.6)	1 (0.2)	8 (0.5)	3 (0.3)
Nausea	7 (0.6)	2 (0.3)	7 (0.5)	7 (0.6)
Diarrhea	7 (0.6)	0	6 (0.4)	5 (0.4)
Dizziness	4 (0.4)	1 (0.2)	6 (0.4)	1 (< 0.1)
Abdominal Pain Upper	5 (0.4)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.3)	12 (1.0)
Abdominal Pain	4 (0.4)	0	4 (0.3)	7 (0.6)

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Safety Profile by Target Organ

CE-33

Cardiovascular Safety

All Studies

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1412)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1633)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1007)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 2156)	
CV SAE	7 (0.5) [3]	10 (1.0) [2]	9 (0.4) [2]	6 (0.4) [2]
Patients with ≥ 1 Cardiac AE	19 (1.3) [11]	21 (2.1) [7]	48 (2.2) [10]	24 (1.5) [7]
Vascular AE	29 (2.1) [16]	48 (4.8) [10]	71 (3.3) [10]	37 (2.3) [11]

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All Probable and Confirmed Cardiovascular or Renal-Related Adverse Events

All Phase 2 and 3 OA Studies up to 65 Weeks

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1116)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 824)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1672)	
Any coronary artery disease / myocardial infarction-related AEs	11 (1.0) [7]	10 (1.2) [3]	25 (1.5) [4]	17 (1.4) [7]
Any cardiac failure- related event	16 (1.4) [9]	35 (4.2) [8]	44 (2.6) [9]	49 (4.2) [16]
Any cerebrovascular- related event	1 (<0.1) [< 1]	1 (0.1) [< 1]	2 (0.1) [< 1]	0
Any renal-related event	1 (<0.1) [1]	5 (0.6) [2]	9 (0.5) [2]	6 (0.5) [2]
Any cardiovascular- or renal-related event	29 (2.6) [17]	49 (5.9) [13]	74 (4.4) [16]	71 (6.0) [25]

03 Core Efficacy and Safety (CE)

AntiPlatelet Trialist Collaboration (APTC) Events

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All Phase 2 and 3 OA Studies up to 65 Weeks

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Naproxcinod			Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1175
	Placebo n = 1116	375 mg <i>bid</i> n = 824	750 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1672	
APTC Events	1 (<0.1) [0.5]	2 (0.2) [0.4]	3 (0.2) [0.5]	2 (0.2) [0.6]

MedDRA Preferred Terms: Myocardial infarction (MI), Acute myocardial infarction (AMI), Cerebrovascular accident, all Cardiovascular deaths (as defined by the AntiPlatelet Trialists' Collaboration, 1994)

For the calculation of the number of events per 100 patient years, all episodes of an adverse event are counted (ie, all events during treatment and follow-up, including unique episode repeats). It is calculated within each treatment group as: [(number of events) / ((sum of durations of study drug exposure for all patients)/365.25)]*100.

Summary of GI Adverse Events

CE-36

Placebo-Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

Patients with ≥ 1, n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Naproxcinod			Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1175)
	Placebo (n = 1116)	375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 601)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1472)	
GI AE	200 (17.9) [158]	109 (18.1) [156]	377 (25.6) [288]	315 (26.8) [302]
Discontinuations due to GI AE	33 (3.0) [22]	14 (2.3) [14]	40 (2.7) [26]	45 (3.8) [33]
GI SAE	4 (0.4) [2]	1 (0.2) [2]	6 (0.4) [3]	3 (0.3) [2]

CE-37

Perforations, Ulcers, Bleedings and Obstructions (PUBs)

Placebo-Controlled OA Studies up to 13 Weeks

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Naproxcinod			Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1175
	Placebo n = 1116	375 mg <i>bid</i> n = 601	750 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1472	
Any PUBs	1 (< 0.1) [<1]	7 (1.2) [7]	11 (0.7) [5]	10 (0.9) [6]

All Studies

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Naproxcinod			Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1633
	Placebo n = 1412	375 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1007	750 mg <i>bid</i> n = 2156	
Any PUBs	1 (< 0.1) [<1]	10 (1.0) [2]	20 (0.9) [3]	14 (0.9) [5]

CE-38

Bleeding-Related AEs

All Studies

n (%) [Events per 100 patient yrs]	Placebo (n = 1412)	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1633)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 1007)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (n = 2156)	
All Bleeding-Related AEs	12 (0.8) [7]	35 (3.5) [8]	51 (2.4) [9]	38 (2.3) [12]

All clinical terms explicitly referring to hemorrhage, hematoma, bleeding, ecchymosis, purpura, petechiae, treatment for hematoma/bleeding/hemorrhage, and rupture of blood vessels were included.

All laboratory "bleeding" terms; i.e., blood urine (stating explicitly that blood was present in urine), bleeding time prolonged, were included.

CE-39

Hepatic Safety

All Studies

- **Hy's Law (for potential drug-induced liver injury)**
 - 1 placebo-treated patient
- **No SAE due to hepatic enzyme elevation**
- **ALT/AST elevations**
 - Occurred in < 1% of patients
 - Were transient

Hy's law for potential drug-induced liver injury: ALT/AST >3X ULN, ALP < 2X ULN, total bilirubin ≥ 2X ULN

CE-40

Overall Safety Summary

- **No unexpected safety issues with naproxenod**
- **The incidence of AEs leading to discontinuation were similar across all treatment groups**
- **The incidence of SAEs was low and similar between treatment groups**

Conclusions: Naproxcinod Efficacy and Safety

- **Naproxcinod is effective at the proposed doses (375 mg and 750 mg *bid*)**
- **Naproxcinod has a favorable safety and tolerability profile**
- **Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* has comparable efficacy to the equimolar dose of naproxen (500 mg *bid*)**

Blood Pressure Effects of Naproxcinod

William B. White, MD

**Professor and Chief,
Hypertension and Clinical Pharmacology
Calhoun Cardiology Center
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Farmington, CT**

CB-2

Presentation Overview

- **Effect of NSAIDs on blood pressure**
- **Non-clinical effects of naproxcinod on blood pressure**
- **Ambulatory BP studies**
- **Blood pressure safety evaluation**
 - **Integrated BP analyses from Phase 3 pivotal studies**
 - **Drug interactions with sildenafil and nitrates**
 - **Potential hypotension-related adverse events**
 - **Evaluation for orthostatic hypotension**

Comorbidities in Arthritis Patients

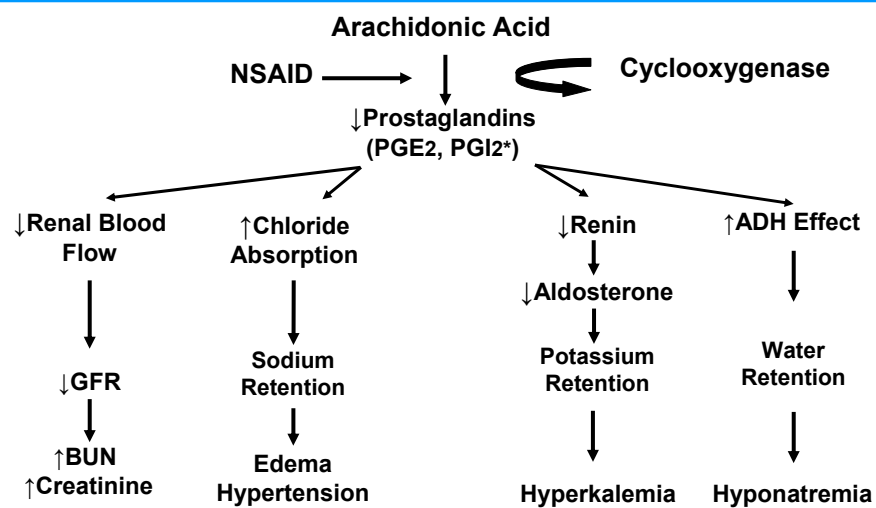
Comorbidity	OA	RA
Hypertension	42%	35%
GI complications	23%	23%
Coronary artery disease	15%	14%
Diabetes	14%	13%
Edema	8%	9%
CHF	5%	6%
AMI	3%	3%

NSAID Users

In a large national plan*, more than 50% of patients on NSAID therapy also had a comorbid hypertensive diagnosis

*Ingenix Pharmaceutical Services. Phase III assessment of patient characteristics for users of NSAID/COX-2 medications using United Healthcare claims data. December 29, 2000.

Renal and BP Effects Associated with NSAID-Induced Cyclooxygenase Inhibition



*Prostacyclin

CB-5

Pharmacology of Naproxcinod: Cardiorenal Models

- BP reduction versus naproxen in animal models
 - Spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR)
 - Renovascular hypertension (rat)
 - L-NAME hypertension (rat)
- Protects isolated heart from ischemia-reperfusion (rabbit)
- Different behavior on kidney oxygenation vs naproxen

L-NAME = L-N_G arginine methyl ester.

CB-6

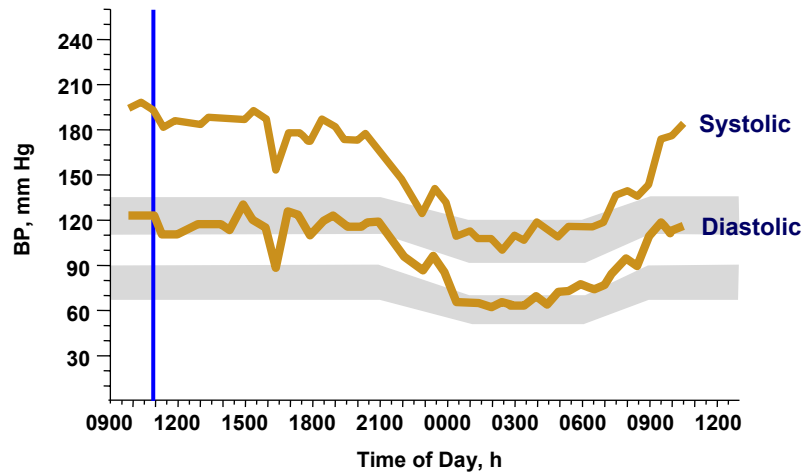
Clinic and Ambulatory Blood Pressure Differences

	Pros	Cons
Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of measurement • Associated with clinical trial outcome data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of reproducibility • White-coat effect • Masked hypertension • Observer bias
ABPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger number of measurements obtained • Sleep measurements obtained • Provides superior ability to evaluate drug treatment effect • Minimal to no placebo effect (removal of observer bias) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive blood pressure method • Inconvenient for patient to do repeatedly

04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

CB-7

Blood Pressure Profile Over 24-hour Period



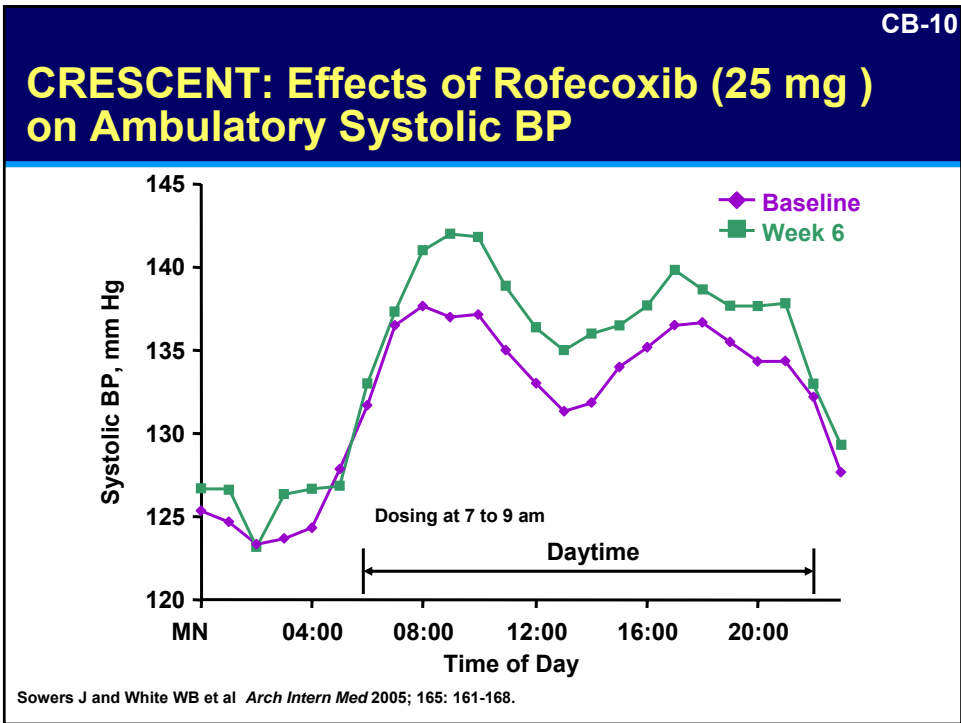
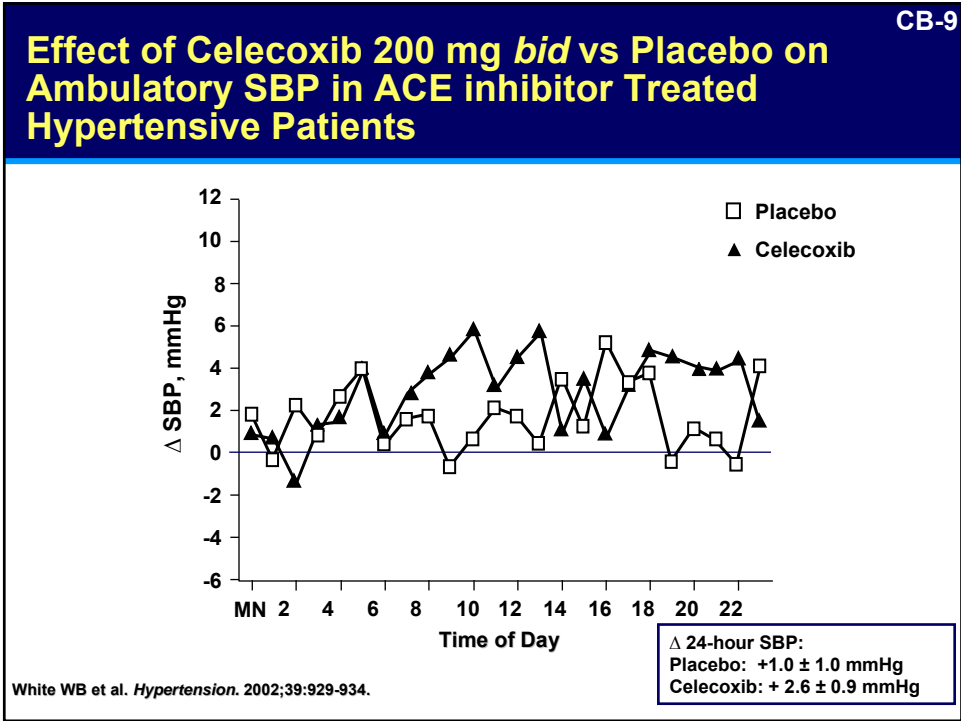
CB-8

Long-term Reproducibility of Clinic and Ambulatory Blood Pressure Components in Older People

BP parameter	SD of differences	Sample size required for a 5 mmHg effect
Clinic SBP	17.8	199
24-hour SBP	11.7	86
Awake SBP	12.7	101
Sleep SBP	13.7	118
Trough SBP	19.4	236

White WB et al. *J Hum Hypertens*. 2010 Mar 4. [Epub ahead of print]

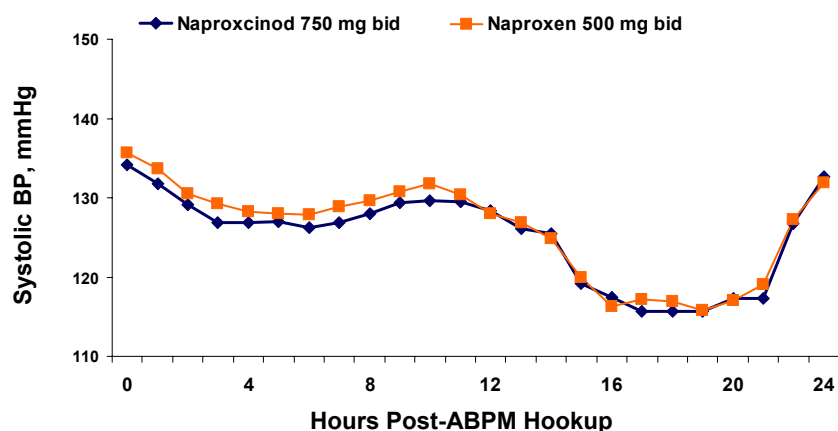
04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

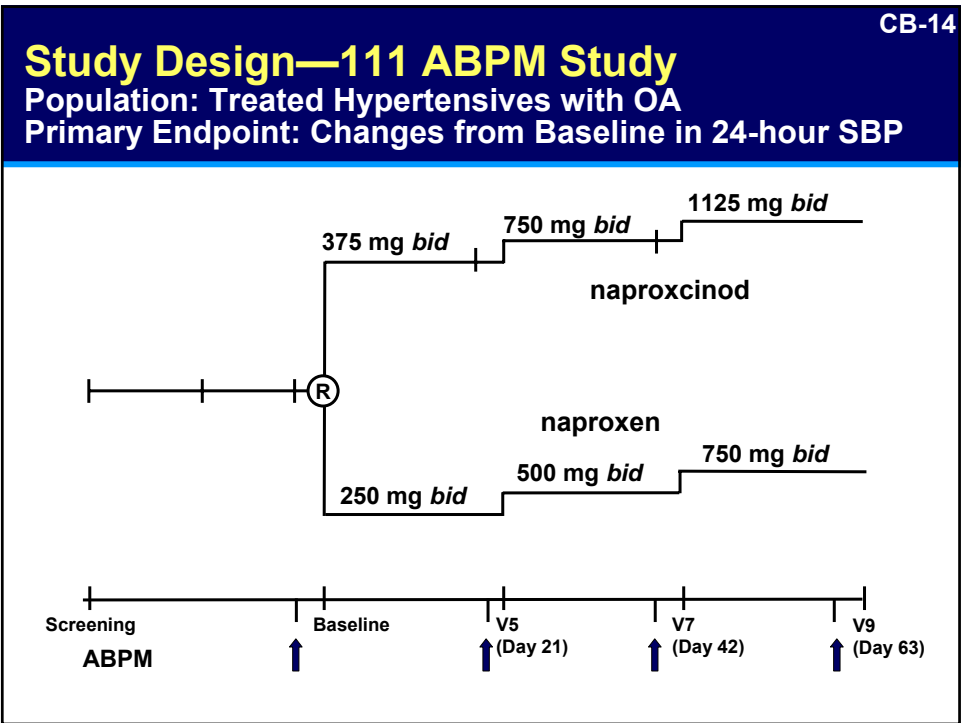
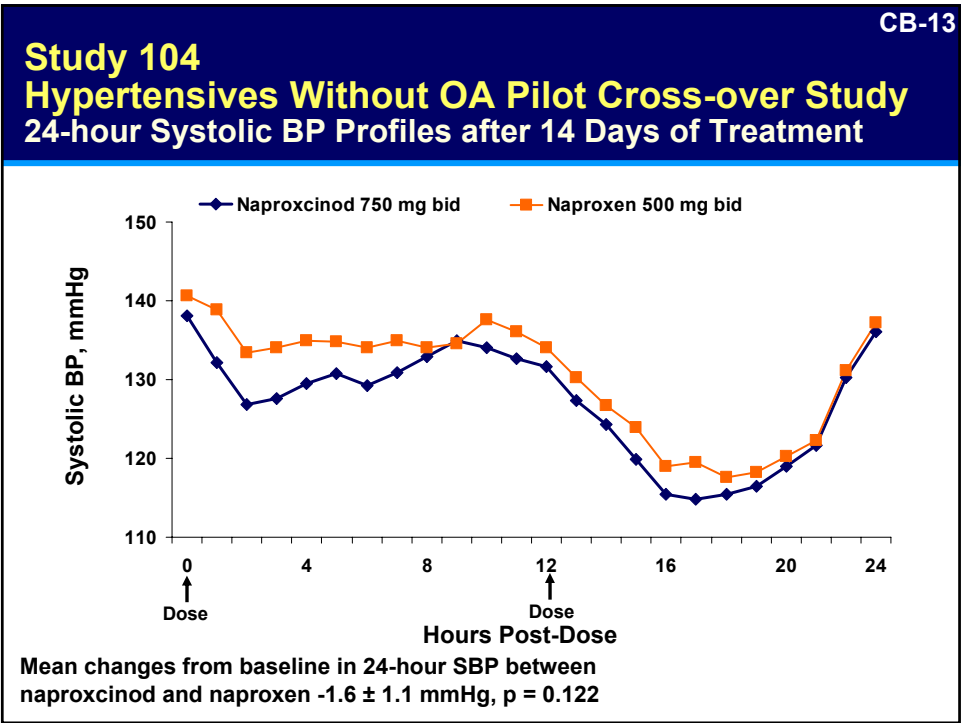


Ambulatory BP Monitoring (ABPM) Studies

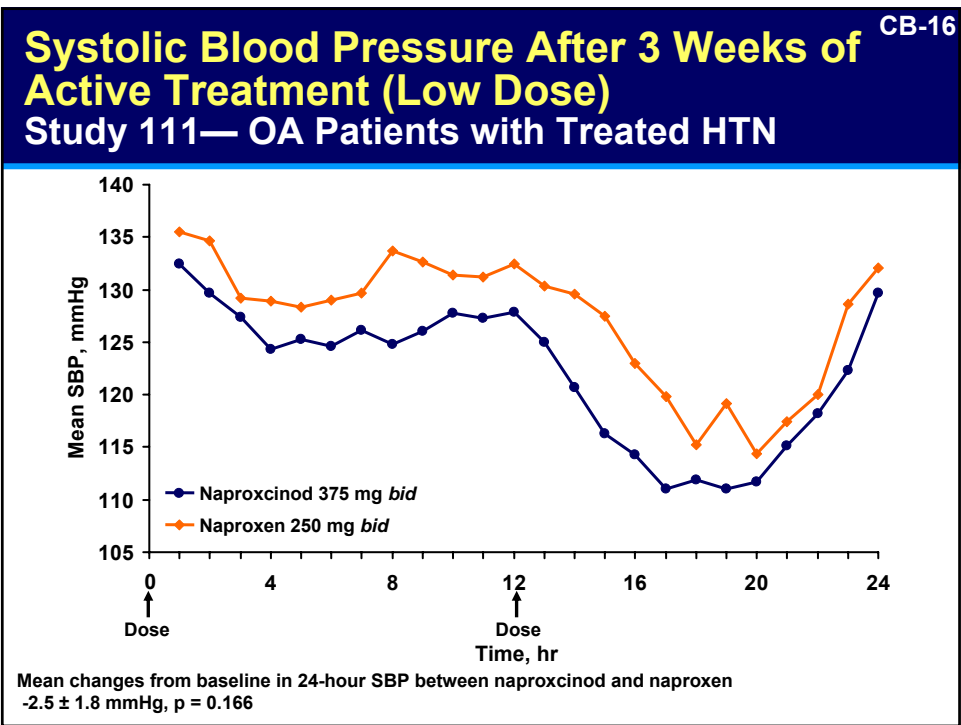
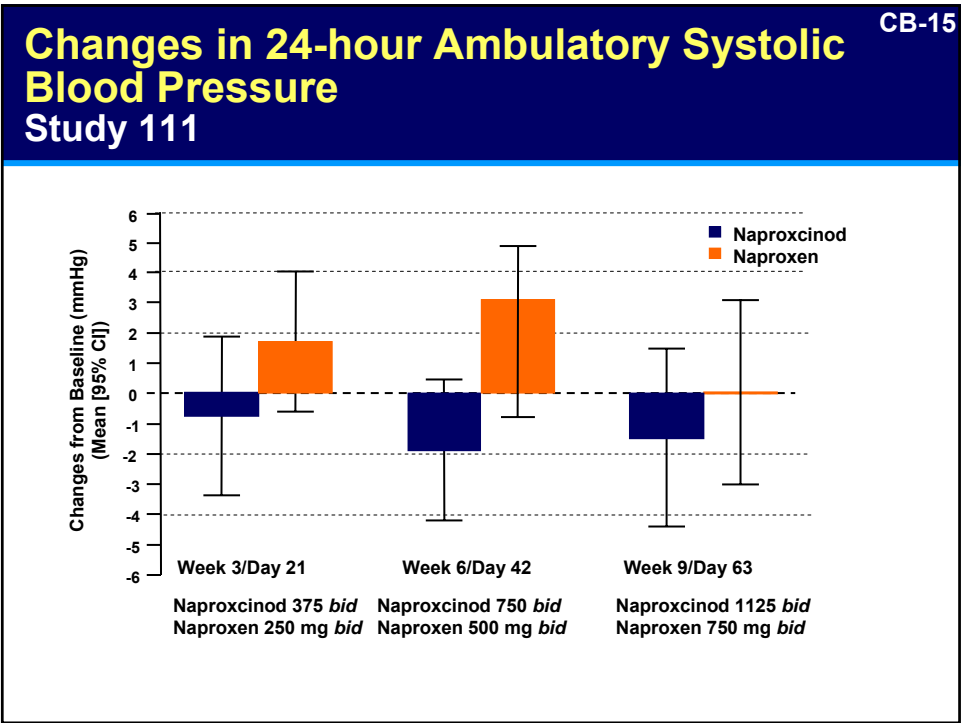
- Study 104: 14 day cross-over study of treated hypertensives without OA – naproxcinod and naproxen
- Study 111: Forced titration, treated hypertensive patients with OA - naproxcinod and naproxen
- Study 112: Parallel arm, treated hypertensive patients with OA – naproxcinod, naproxen, and ibuprofen

Study 104 Hypertensives Without OA Pilot Cross-over Study Baseline 24-hour Systolic BP Profiles

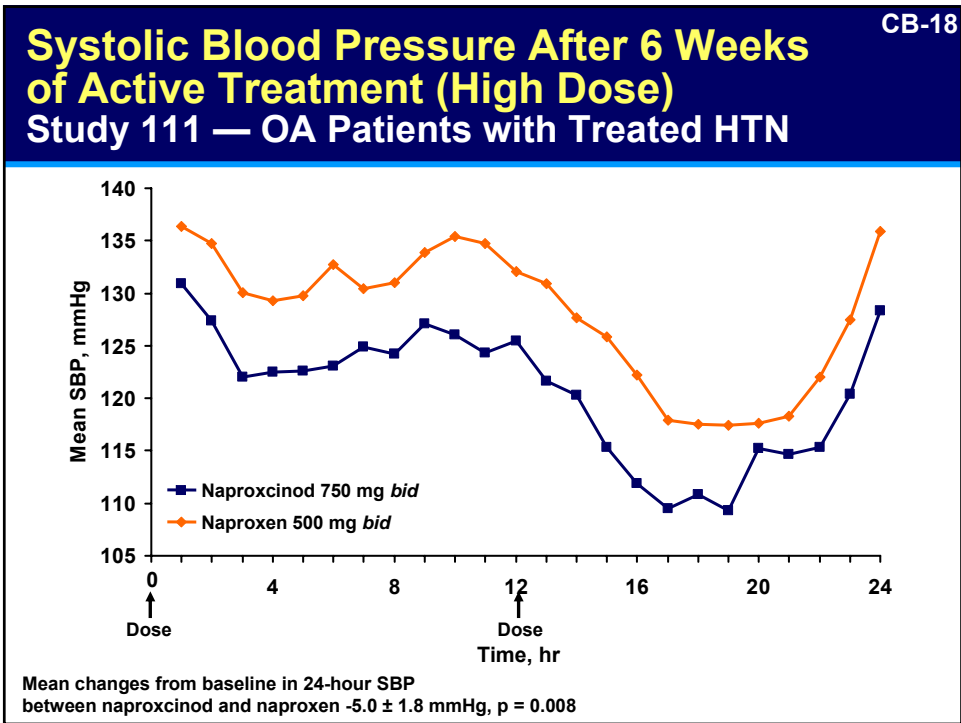
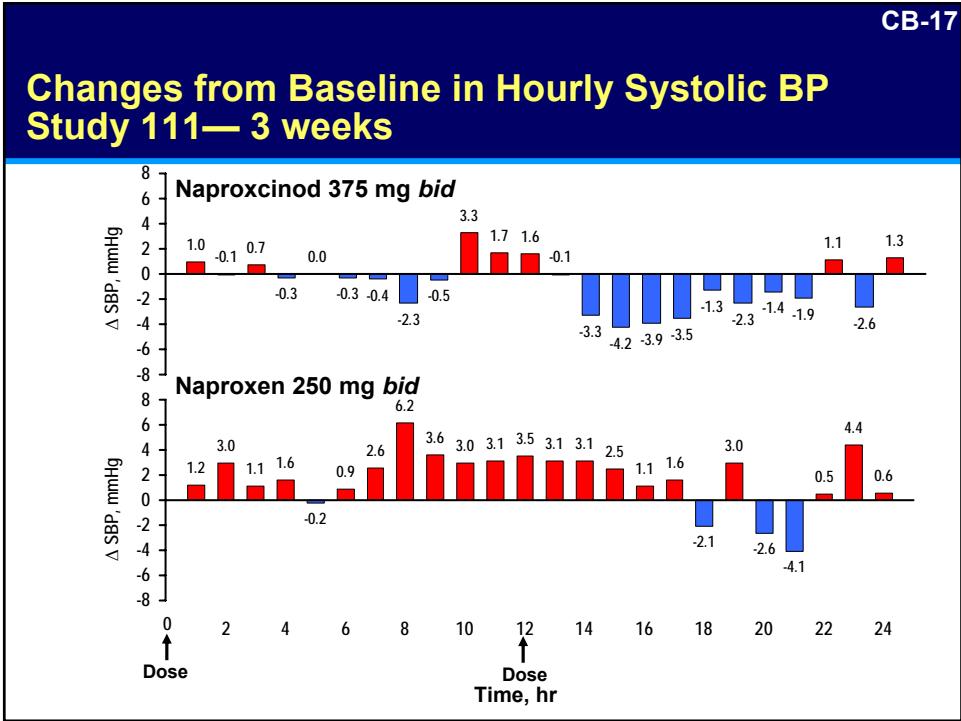




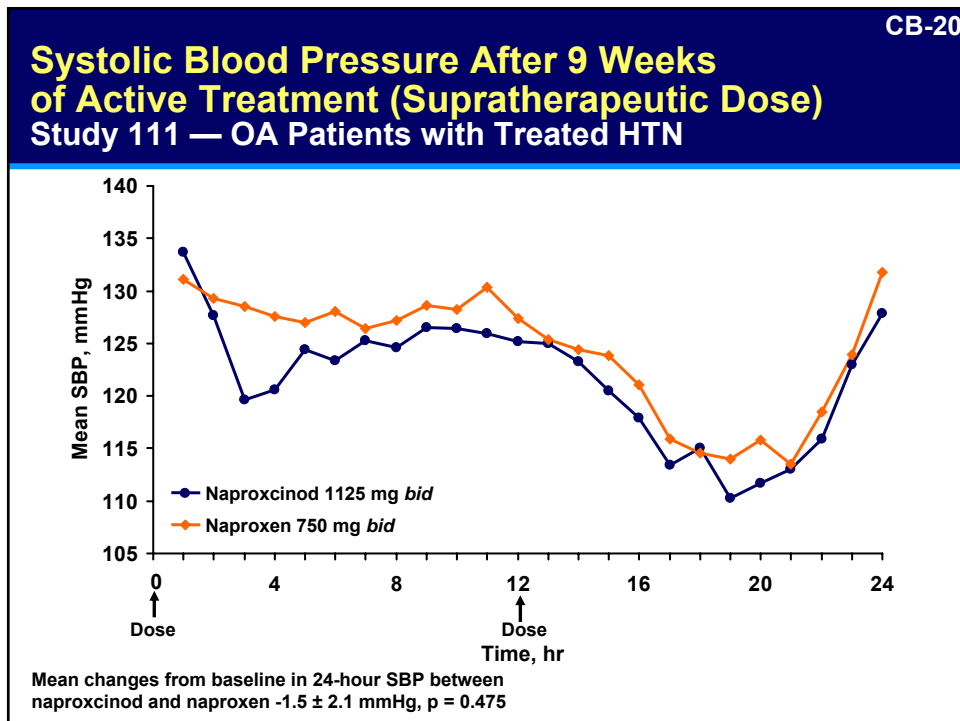
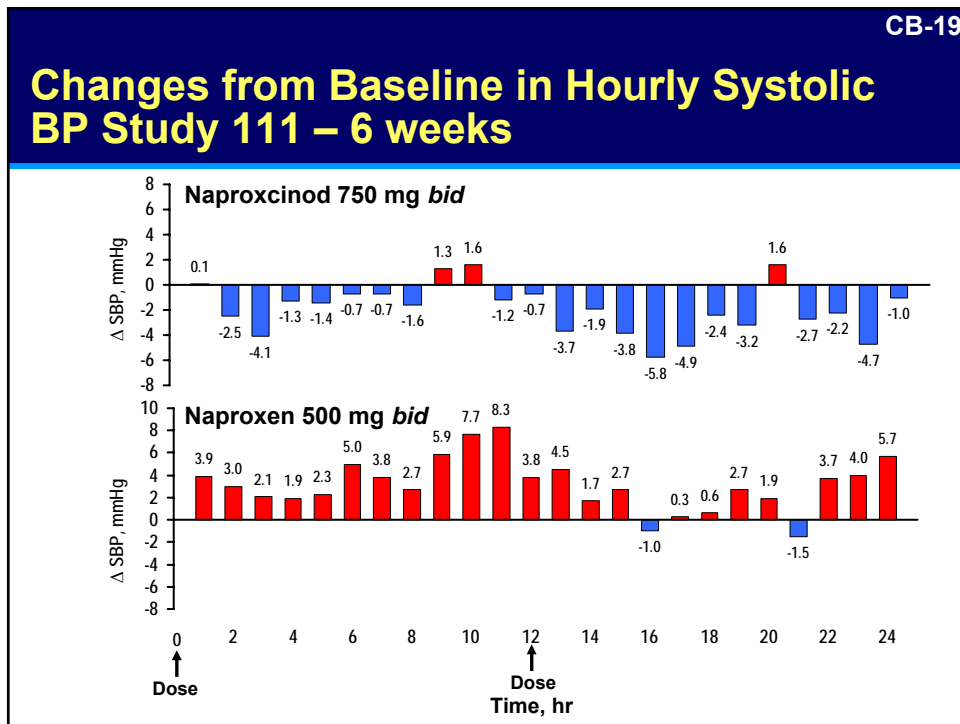
04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)



04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)



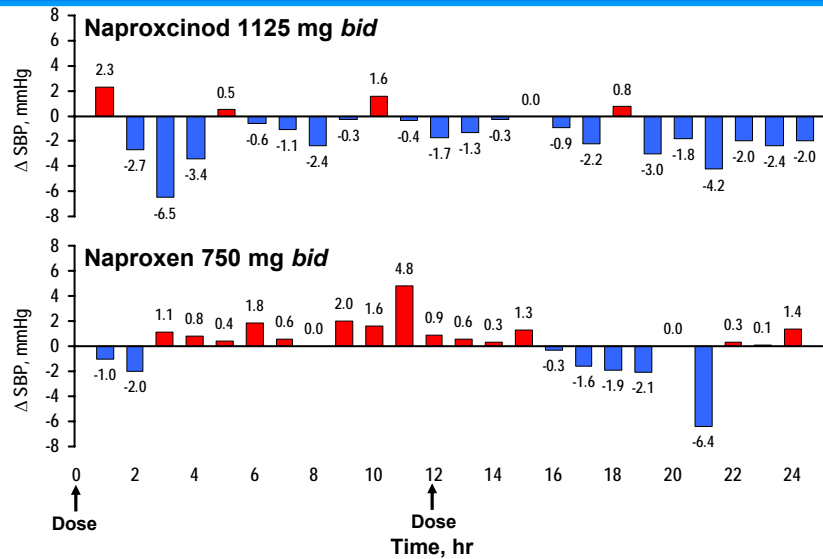
04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)



04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

CB-21

Changes from Baseline in Hourly Systolic BP Study 111—9 weeks



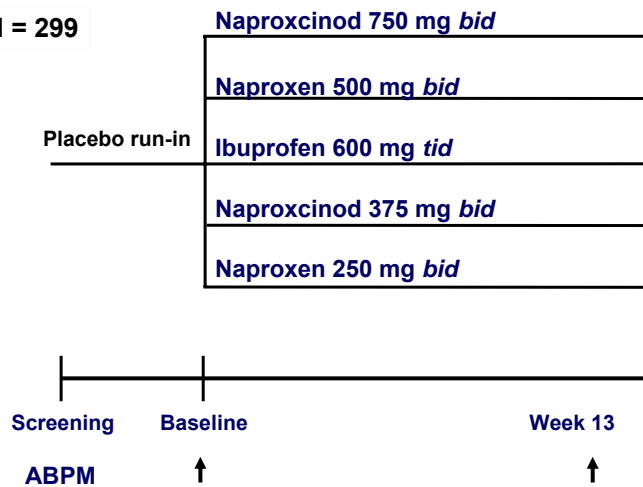
CB-22

Study Design—112 ABPM Study

Population: Treated Hypertensives with OA

Primary Endpoint: Change in 24-hour SBP on naproxenod 750 mg vs naproxen 500 mg

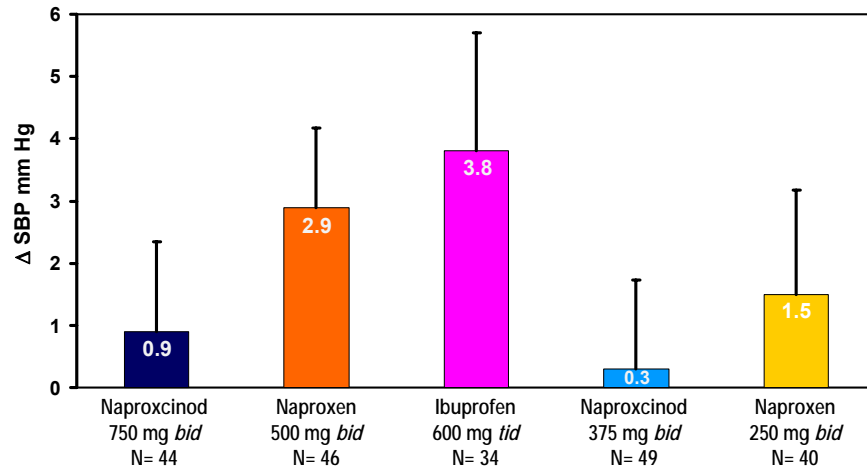
N = 299



04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

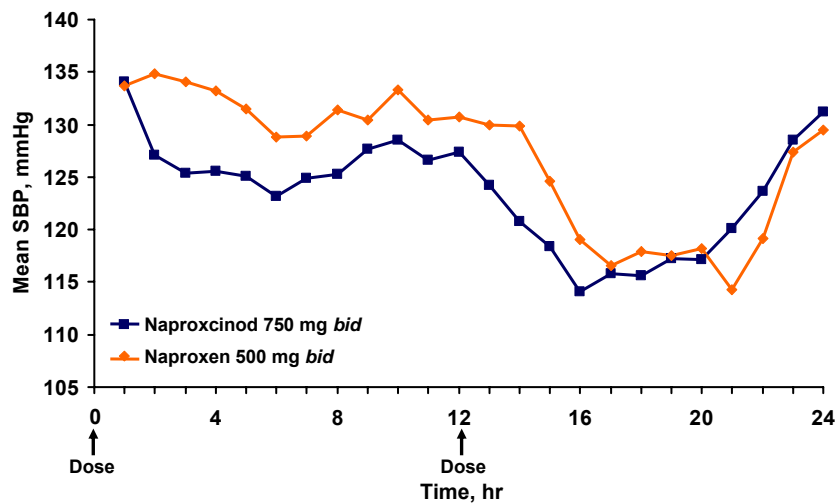
Mean Changes from Baseline in 24-hour Ambulatory Systolic Blood Pressure Study 112 — OA Patients with Treated HTN

CB-23

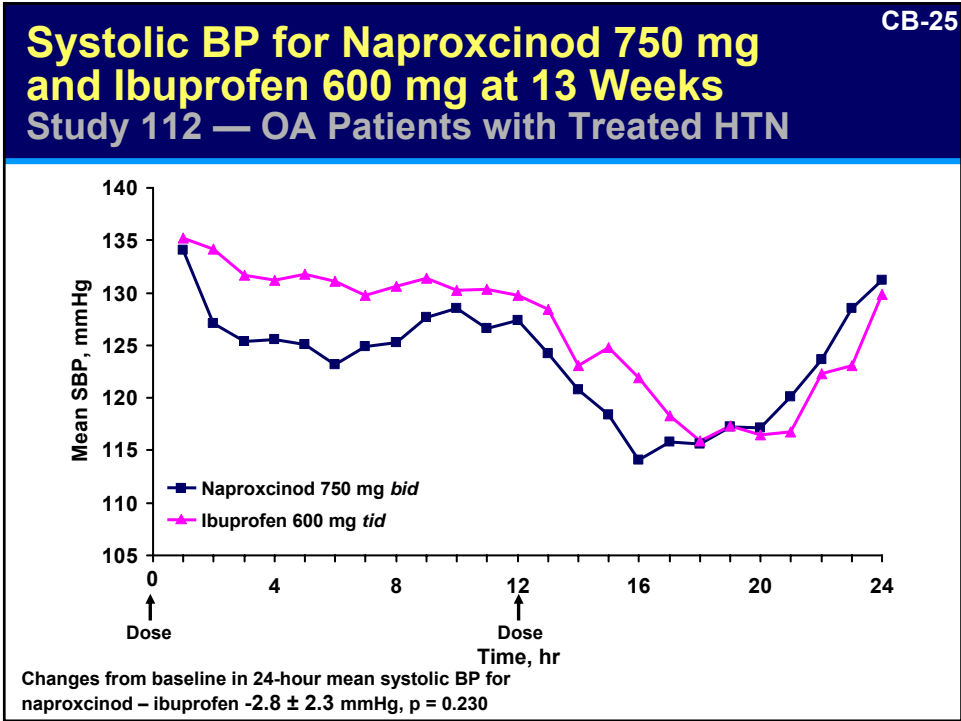


Systolic BP for Naproxcinod 750 mg and Naproxen 500 mg at 13 Weeks Study 112 — OA Patients with Treated HTN

CB-24



Changes from Baseline in 24-hour mean systolic BP for
naproxcinod – naproxen -2.0 ± 2.2 mmHg, $p = 0.375$



Blood Pressure Safety Assessment

Integrated Clinic Blood Pressure Analyses Study 304

- Three large pivotal OA trials*
 - 301: 918 patients with knee OA
 - 302: 1011 patients with knee OA
 - 303: 810 patients with hip OA
- Blood pressure Data
 - Standardized Office BP Measurements
 - According to AHA guidelines 3 hours post-dosing
 - Pre-specified integrated safety analysis of 3 trials large enough to analyze sub-groups on antihypertensive drug therapies

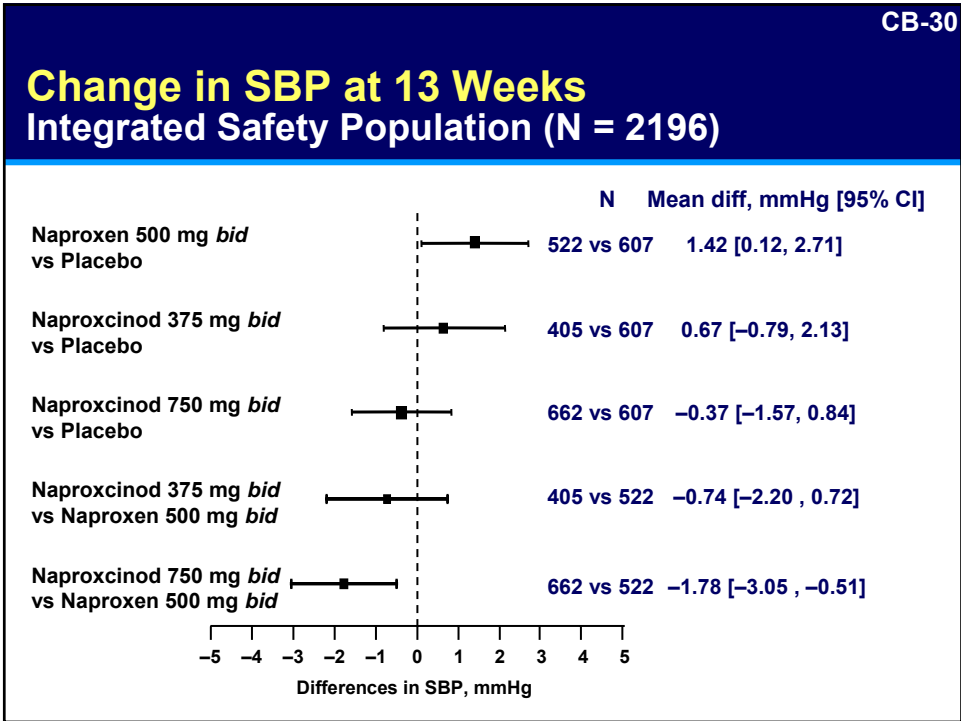
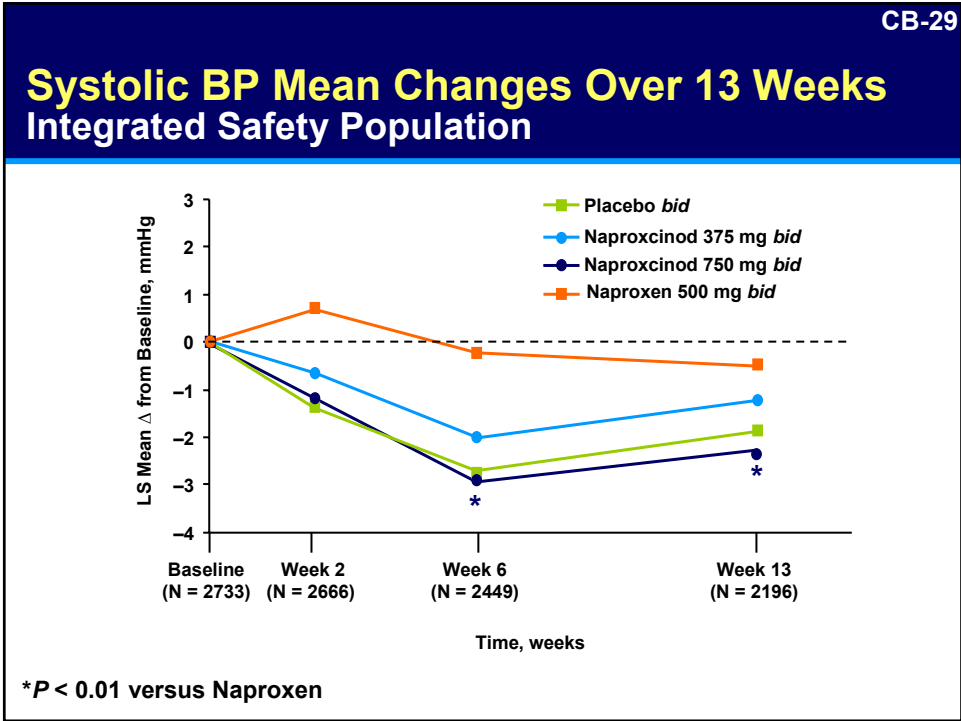
All phase 3 trials were:

- Double-blind
- Placebo & naproxen-controlled
- 3 standard co-primary efficacy endpoints at 13 weeks

Baseline Characteristics Integrated BP Analysis 304—Phase 3 OA Studies

N, (%)	Placebo (N = 811)	Naproxinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> (N = 637)
		375 mg <i>bid</i> (N = 487)	750 mg <i>bid</i> (N = 799)	
Total N = 2734				
Age, years (SD)	62 (9.4)	61 (9.5)	62 (9.7)	61 (9.7)
Hypertension	417 (51.4)	230 (47.2)	389 (48.7)	313 (49.1)
Diabetes	105 (12.9)	67 (13.8)	114 (14.3)	82 (12.9)
≥ 1 risk factor for high cardiovascular risk	562 (69.3)	331 (68.0)	507 (63.5)	417 (65.5)
Antihypertensive therapy	349 (43.7)	207 (42.5)	279 (43.8)	365 (45.0)
Low-dose aspirin use (≤ 325 mg)	162 (20.0)	109 (22.4)	181 (22.7)	133 (20.9)

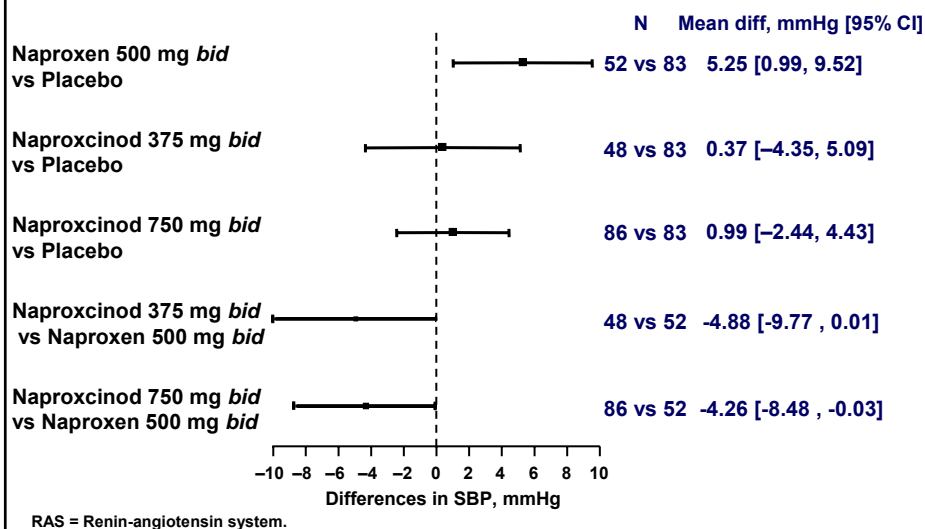
04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)



04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

CB-31

Change in SBP at 13 Weeks RAS Inhibitor Monotherapy Subgroup (N = 332)



CB-32

Percentage of Patients with Increases from Baseline in Systolic Blood Pressure at Week 13

Characteristic	Placebo	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i>
		750 mg <i>bid</i>	375 mg <i>bid</i>	
Pooled Safety Population, N at wk 13	607	662	405	522
≥ 5 mmHg	26.7	28.4*	26.9*	34.3**
≥ 10 mmHg	15.8	15.3*	18.0	20.7†
≥ 20 mmHg	3.6	2.4	4.2	5.9

* $p < 0.02$ compared to naproxen 500 mg.

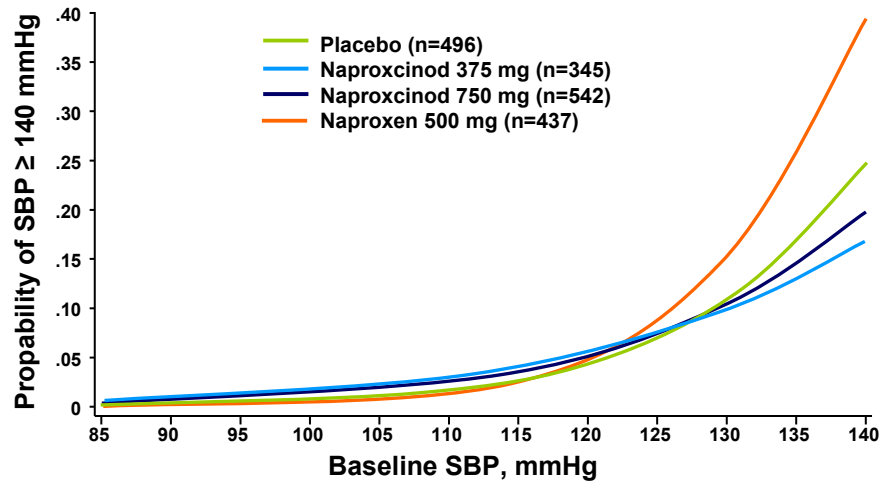
** $p < 0.05$ compared to placebo.

† $p = 0.055$ compared to placebo.

04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

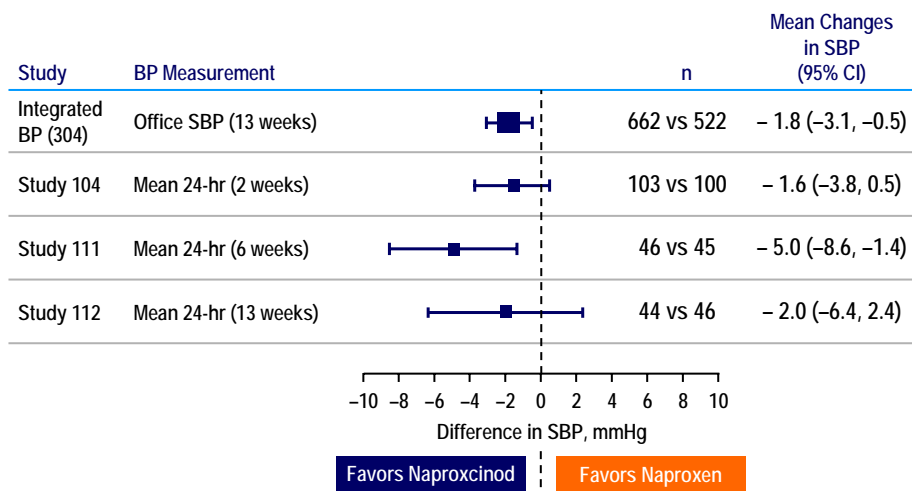
CB-33

Probability of Systolic BP ≥ 140 mmHg in Patients with Baseline SBP < 140 mmHg at Week 13

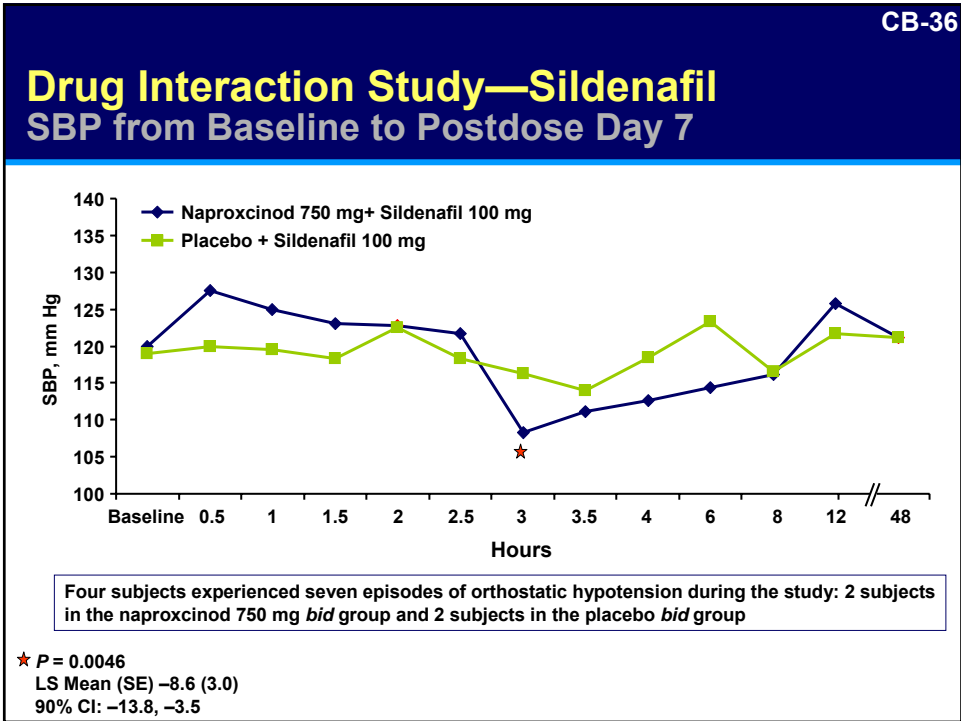


CB-34

Summary of Mean Changes from Baseline in Systolic Blood Pressure Across Trials Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* vs Naproxen 500 mg *bid*



Evaluation for Potential Hypotension

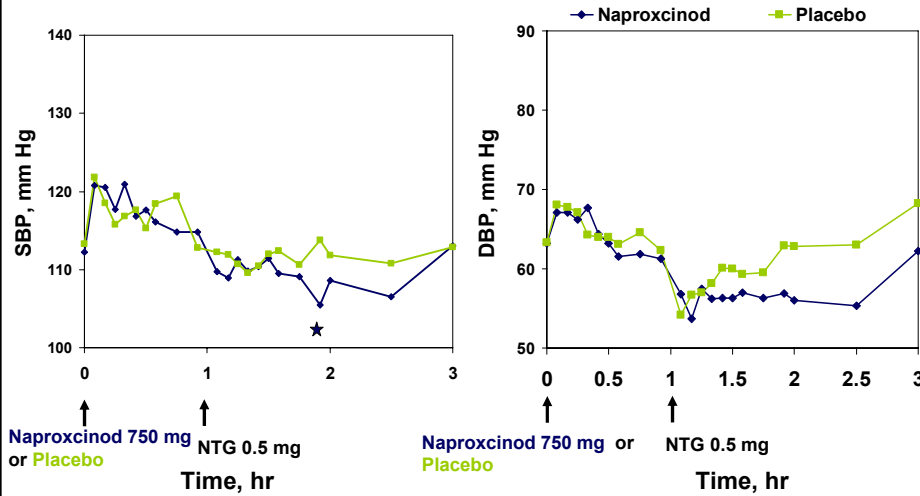


04 Core Blood Pressure (CB)

CB-37

Drug Interaction Study—Nitroglycerin Systolic and Diastolic Profile

★ The LS means difference at 1h 55 min was: -8.33 ; P -value= 0.0004



CB-38

Potential Hypotension— Related Adverse Events All Placebo-controlled Studies up to 13 Weeks

	Patients, n (%)			
	Placebo n = 1116	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1175
		375 mg <i>bid</i> n = 601	750 mg <i>bid</i> n = 1472	
Dizziness	24 (2.2)	15 (2.5)	47 (3.2)	24 (2.0)
Hypotension	1 (<0.1%)	0	9 (0.6)	2 (0.2)
Syncope	2 (0.2)	1 (0.2)	4 (0.3)	2 (0.2)
Orthostatic hypotension	0	4 (0.7)	4 (0.3)	2 (0.2)
Blood pressure decreased	0	0	4 (0.3)	0
Presyncope	0	0	1 (<0.1)	0
Dizziness postural	0	1 (0.2)	0	0
Vertigo	6 (0.5)	1 (0.2)	8 (0.5)	3 (0.3)

Formal Orthostatic Hypotension Evaluation Study 302—3 Hour Post Dosing

Definition: 1 minute Standing SBP < 90 mmHg when Supine SBP ≥ 90 mmHg
OR Decrease From Supine to Standing Position ≥ 20 mmHg

Visit	Placebo <i>bid</i> N = 259	Naproxcinod		Naproxen 500 mg <i>bid</i> N = 256
		375 mg <i>bid</i> N = 247	750 mg <i>bid</i> N = 248	
Baseline Pre-Dose	8 (3.1%)	5 (2.0%)	7 (2.8%)	5 (2.0%)
Baseline 3 Hr Post-Dose	6 (2.3%)	2 (0.8%)	6 (2.4%)	1 (0.4%)
Week 2 Post-Dose	7 (2.7%)	5 (2.0%)	5 (2.0%)	2 (0.8%)
Week 13 Post-Dose	2 (0.8%)	3 (1.2%)	5 (2.0%)	2 (0.8%)

One patient (0.4%) in the placebo group had a standing SBP < 90 mmHg AND Decrease from Supine ≥ 20 mmHg at the 1 min. time point.

Conclusions

- Naproxcinod has lower 24-hour mean systolic BPs than naproxen (-2.0 to -5.0 mmHg) in hypertensive patients
- Clinic BP measurements for naproxcinod are similar to placebo; this is not the case for naproxen
 - In patients on RAS inhibitors, naproxcinod maintains BP effects similar to placebo while the increase in BP by naproxen is greater
- Naproxcinod does not induce clinically important reductions in BP nor does it cause postural hypotension
- Reductions in SBP have been observed when naproxcinod is co-administered with sildenafil or nitroglycerin

Importance of Systolic Blood Pressure Levels in Patients with Osteoarthritis

Michael A. Weber, MD

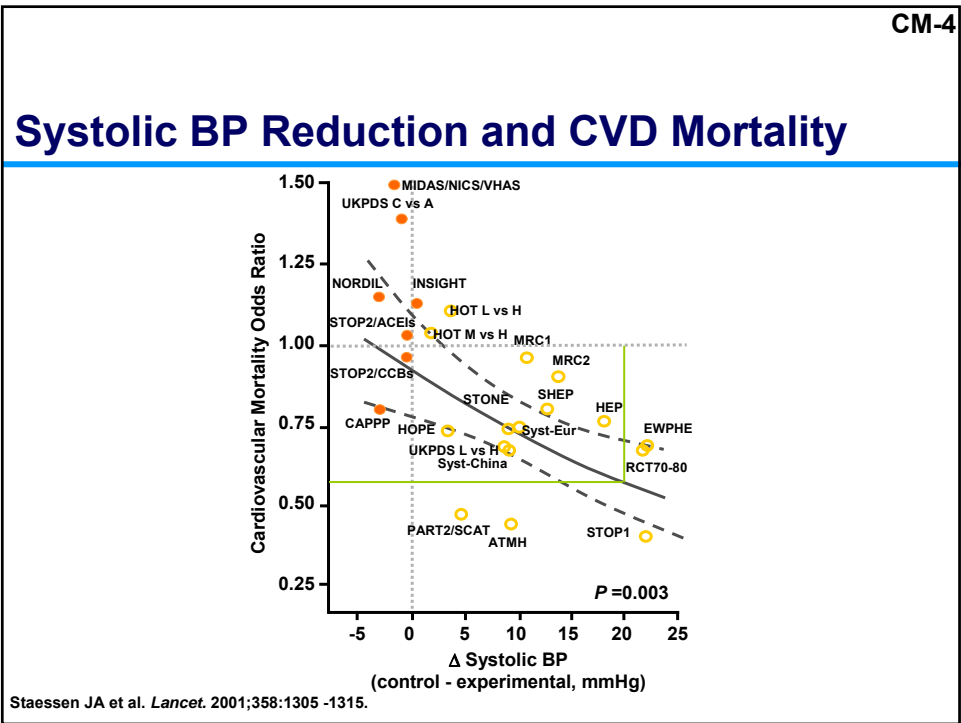
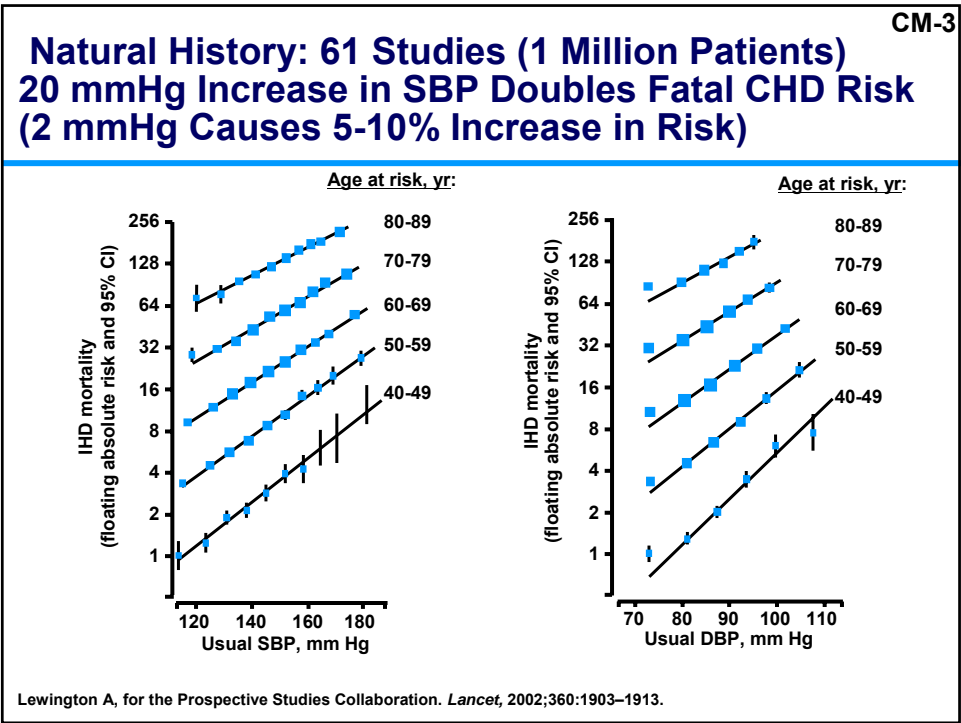
**Professor of Medicine (Cardiology)
State University of New York
Downstate College of Medicine**

CM-2

Public Health Implications of Blood Pressure Differences

Two principal sources of information:

- **Epidemiologic (natural history) data linking BP differences to cardiovascular outcomes**
- **Clinical trials data linking differences in achieved BP levels to cardiovascular outcomes**



CM-5

Clinical Trials Meta-analysis Effects of Differences in Achieved SBP on Fatal Cardiovascular Events

2 mmHg: 10% (- 4 to 24%)

5 mmHg: 17% (5 to 27%)

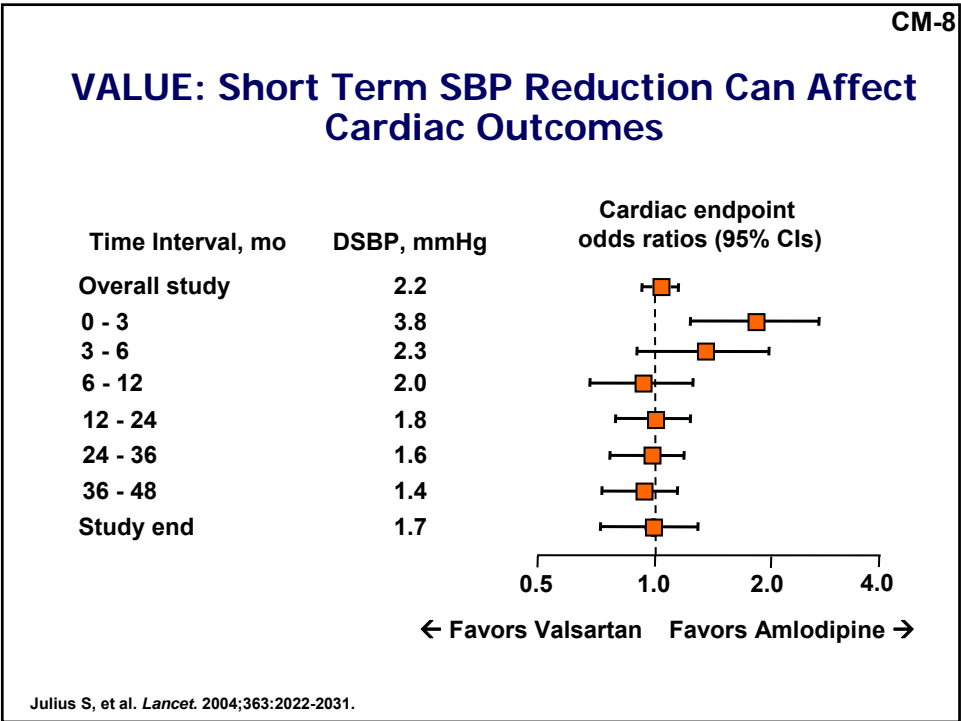
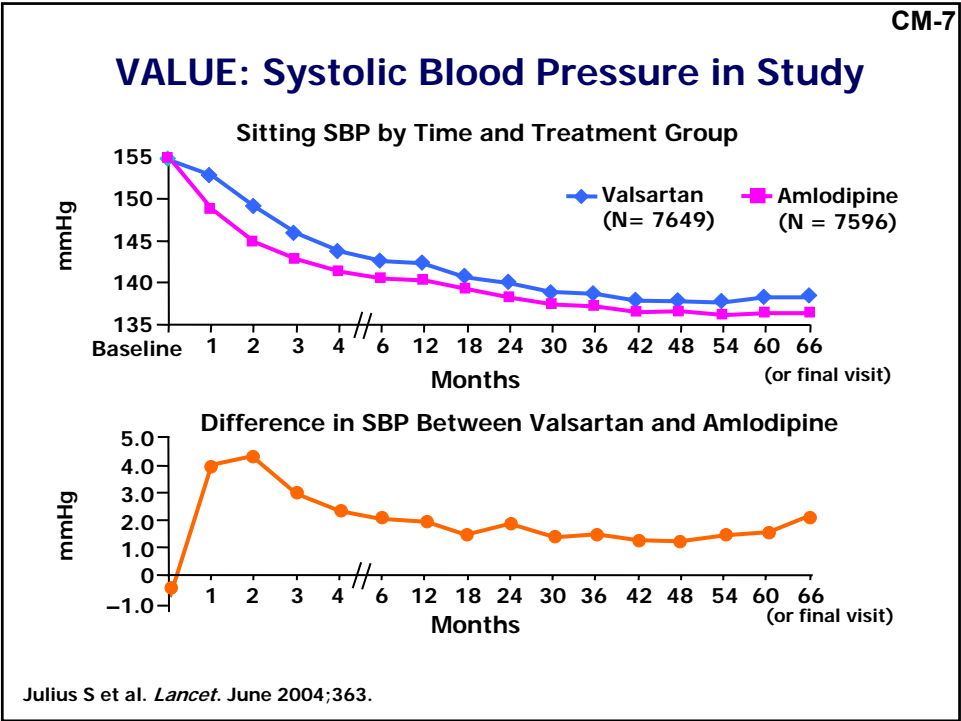
Staessen JA et al, *Lancet* 2001; 358:1305-1315

CM-6

Impact of Small Differences in SBP from ALLHAT

- ALLHAT chlorthalidone vs doxazosin
Δ SBP -3 mmHg
 - 21% reduction in stroke (p = 0.001)
 - 17% reduction in combined CV disease (p < 0.001)
- ALLHAT chlorthalidone vs lisinopril
Δ SBP -2 mmHg
 - 13% reduction in stroke (p = 0.02)
 - 9% reduction in combined CV disease (p < 0.001)

ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group. *JAMA*. 2000;283:1967-1975.
ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group. *JAMA*. 2002;288:2981-2997.



CM-9

Naproxcinod Systolic BP Effects vs Naproxen

- All patients (Pooled data) 2.0 mmHg
- On RAS Monotherapy (Pooled data) 4.3 mmHg
- 24 Hour ABPM: 2 to 5 mmHg

Impact: Most hypertensive patients now receive an ACE inhibitor or ARB, often plus a thiazide, so benefit of naproxcinod (compared with naproxen) is > 4 mmHg in a large fraction of OA patients with hypertension

CM-10

Blood Pressure Effects: Clinical Comparison of Naproxcinod with Naproxen


- Lower probability of meaningful BP elevations
- Lower probability of incident hypertension

So, it is a reasonable assumption that use of naproxcinod (vs. naproxen) would reduce the need for extra medical visits to consider starting new BP therapy or to increase anti-hypertensive drug doses

Final Comment

- Naproxen is not an anti-hypertensive agent. Its clinical BP effects are not different from placebo
- To the extent that increased BP might contribute to the unwanted cardiovascular effects of NSAIDs, potentially minimizing BP elevations during treatment of osteoarthritis might be of value

CC-1



Management of OA: Benefit Risk of Naproxcinod

Marc C. Hochberg, MD, MPH

Professor of Medicine
Head, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

CC-2

Summary: Naproxcinod

- NO has the potential to address one of the important NSAID side effects
 - Vasodilatation resulting in a lack of increase in MAP
- Naproxcinod was developed to provide
 - Well documented analgesic/anti-inflammatory effects of naproxen
 - Favorable effects of NO on blood pressure
- Naproxcinod offers a significant benefit over naproxen and, by extrapolation, other NSAIDs, with respect to an effect on blood pressure

CC-3

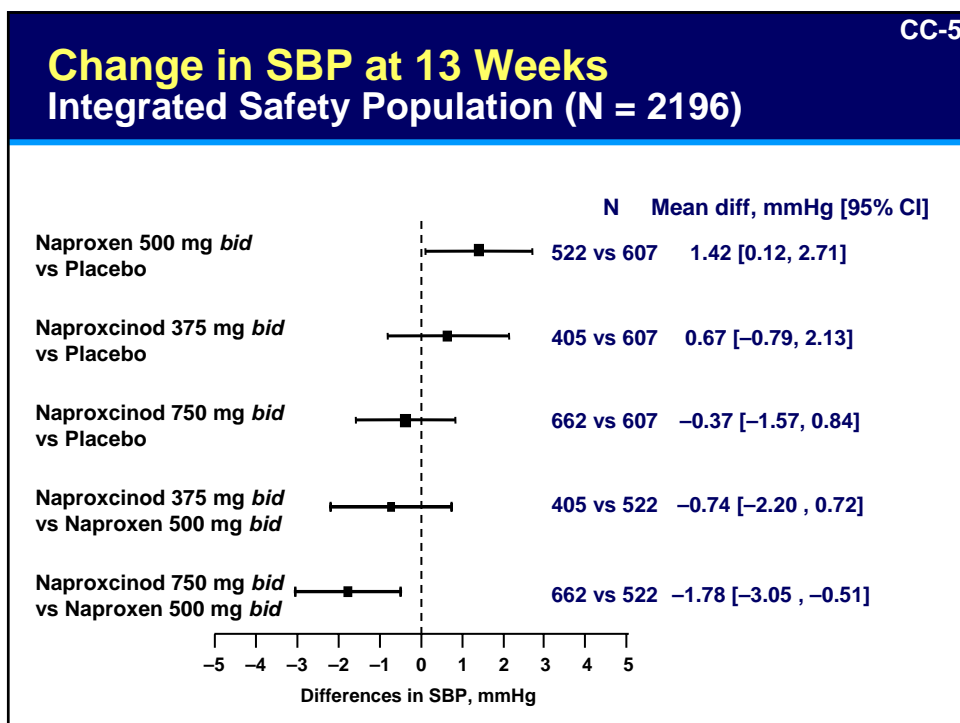
Naproxcinod for Treatment of OA

- **Significant efficacy on 3 co-primary endpoints in 2 similarly designed placebo-controlled RCTs for both doses in persons with knee OA**
- **Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* had significant efficacy in a placebo-controlled RCT for patients with hip OA**

CC-4

Naproxcinod for Treatment of OA

- **The totality of the evidence supports the conclusion that Naproxcinod 750 mg *bid* has comparable efficacy to naproxen 500 mg *bid***
 - Comparable efficacy for the co-primary endpoints of pain, function and patient global in Studies 301, 302 and 303
 - Similar proportion of patients achieved the secondary endpoint of OMERACT-OARSI Response
 - Similar NNT to achieve OMERACT-OARSI Response



CC-6

Naproxcinod for Treatment of OA

- Naproxcinod is effective for the relief of the signs and symptoms of OA
 - Proven efficacy c/w placebo at both doses
 - Similar effects on blood pressure c/w placebo
 - Better safety profile than naproxen
 - NO mitigates the effect on blood pressure