

## Patients

- Why is Merck withdrawing VIOXX?

Merck & Co., Inc. is voluntarily withdrawing VIOXX (rofecoxib) effective immediately based on new data from a three-year clinical study. In this study, there was an increased risk for cardiovascular events (CV), such as heart attack and stroke, in the patients taking VIOXX 25 mg compared to those taking placebo (sugar pill). While the incidence of CV events was low, there was an increased risk beginning after 18 months of treatment.

- What should I do if I've been taking VIOXX?

Patients who are currently taking VIOXX should contact their health care providers to discuss discontinuing use of VIOXX and possible alternative treatments.

- What should I do with my VIOXX tablets?

Merck will reimburse patients for unused VIOXX tablets. You should retain your tablets. Reimbursement information will be posted on this website in the next few days.

- Will the company reimburse me for unused VIOXX?

Yes. Merck will reimburse patients for unused VIOXX tablets.

- How do I get reimbursement for unused VIOXX?

Information on what patients need to do for reimbursement will be posted on this website.

- What do I do if I have more questions about VIOXX?

Contact your health care provider to discuss questions you have about VIOXX and to discuss your medical condition.