CARDIOVASCULAR NEWS

Lipitor® approved to reduce heart attack and stroke in diabetes

Pfizer Canada Inc. announced recently that Health Canada has approved the cholesterol-lowering therapy Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium) for the reduction of the risk of heart attack and stroke for adults with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension without clinically evident coronary heart disease, but with other risk factors.

The approval is based on the findings of the Collaborative AtoRvastatin Diabetes Study (CARDS). CARDS involved more than 2,800 patients with Type 2 diabetes, no history of heart disease and relatively low levels of cholesterol. The study showed that patients who took Lipitor had a 37% reduction in major cardiovascular events, which include heart attack and stroke. In fact, 48% fewer Lipitor-treated patients experienced strokes, compared to those who received placebo.

CARDS was stopped nearly two years earlier than planned because of the significant benefits for patients who took Lipitor compared to those who received placebo.

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Health Canada approves Pfizer's Lipitor® to reduce risk of heart attack and stroke for people with diabetes. Press release. Kirkland, Quebec, December 6, 2005.

Study provides important guidance for CVD prevention

Results from the Fenofibrate Intervention & Events Lowering in Diabetes (FIELD) study, the largest clinical trial to assess the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with Type 2 diabetes, showed that heart attacks and coronary interventions (such as bypass surgery) can be reduced with fenofibrate.

"I am definitely impressed with the impact of fenofibrate on microvascular complications," said Dr. Jean Davignon, Director of the hyperlipidemia and atherosclerosis research group at the Montreal Clinical Research Institute. "Fenofibrate led to a large reduction in the need for laser surgery for diabetic retinopathy and a reduction in kidney-related complications. Such an impact on both macrovascular and microvascular events has never been observed before."

It is estimated that over two million Canadians have diabetes and, of these, 90% have Type 2 diabetes. People suffering from diabetes are two to four times more likely to develop CVD than the normal population.

World's largest study of its kind in Type 2 diabetes provides important guidance for cardiovascular disease prevention. Press release. Montreal, Quebec, November 15, 2005.

Cardiovascular News

New Lipitor® study demonstrates benefit to intensive LDL-C lowering

According to the Incremental Decrease in End points through Aggressive Lipid lowering (IDEAL) study, patients who had a previous heart attack and took Pfizer Inc.'s cholesterol-lowering medicine Lipitor® (atorvastatin calcium) to further lower their LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol) levels had significantly fewer cardiovascular events, including heart attacks, strokes or revascularization procedures, compared to patients taking Zocor (simvastatin).

There was an 11% reduction in major coronary events in Lipitor patients (p=0.07), compared to Zocor patients, which included death related to coronary heart disease, heart attack and cardiac arrest, which did not reach statistical significance. However, patients taking Lipitor experienced a significant 17% reduction in non-fatal heart attacks and a significant 13% reduction in major cardiovascular events, compared to patients taking Zocor. There were no significant differences in adverse events between patients taking the highest dose of Lipitor (80 mg) and moderate doses of Zocor (20 mg to 40 mg).

New Lipitor study demonstrates that intensive LDL cholesterol lowering in patients with heart disease can reduce cardiovascular events. Press release. Dallas, Texas, November 15, 2005.

Pfizer establishes new CV research awards program

Pfizer Canada is proud to introduce the Pfizer Cardiovascular Research Awards program to promote partnerships for better cardiovascular care in Canada. The Awards program, announced recently at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, will support a variety of initiatives, from traditional clinical trials to smaller, often under-represented projects in Canadian research. All proposals will be reviewed by an independent expert review committee that has been established to evaluate and grant the Awards, chaired by Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif, Director, Research Centre, Montreal Heart Institute, Associate Professor of Medicine, Université de Montréal and recipient of the Pfizer-Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chair of Atherosclerosis.

"Canada has a long history and commitment to cardiovascular research," says Dr. Tardif. "It is an honour to be part of such a prestigious and valuable program. In order to advance our understanding of the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, it is important for new researchers, as well as established experts, to have support for research projects and initiatives. And, ultimately, it is the Canadian public that will benefit from this partnership for research and knowledge. I look forward to working with Pfizer Canada on this innovative project." *PCard*

New research award program established to further cardiovascular research in Canada. Press release. Montreal, Quebec, October 26, 2005.