

States Try to Expand Health Insurance Access

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NASHVILLE, TENN. — States' policy makers are looking for innovative approaches to expand access to health insurance.

"There seems to be renewed interest in trying to build on [employer-sponsored insurance]," Sharon Silow-Carroll, senior vice president of the Economic and Social Research Institute in Teaneck, N.J., said at

the annual conference of the National Academy for State Health Policy.

Trends that have combined to spur action in this area include the decline in employer-sponsored insurance, the financial strains on state Medicaid programs, and the rising cost of health care.

States have responded with a number of different approaches:

► **Limited benefit plans.** Some states are allowing the sale of lower-cost, limited benefit plans and other options such as

health savings accounts coupled with high-deductible plans.

► **Premium assistance.** Other states are offering premium assistance through Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and other public programs. For example, Rhode Island offers subsidies and wrap-around benefits to those eligible for Medicaid and other state health programs. For those individuals who earn 150% of the federal poverty level or less, the state pays the employee's

share of the employer-sponsored premium.

► **Reinsurance.** There has also been a lot of interest in reinsurance through indirect subsidies to employers and workers, Ms. Silow-Carroll said. New York pays 90% of claims between \$5,000 and \$75,000 for eligible individuals.

► **State-negotiated health plans.** States are also using their purchasing power with or without additional subsidies to provide more affordable health insurance options.

► **Employer mandates.** State policy mak-



ATTENTION DISPENSER: Accompanying Medication Guide **must** be dispensed with this product.

Mobic® (meloxicam) Tablets 7.5 mg and 15 mg and Mobic® (meloxicam) Oral Suspension 7.5 mg/5 mL

Rx only

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

WARNING

Cardiovascular Risk

• NSAIDs may cause an increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events, myocardial infarction, and stroke, which can be fatal. This risk may increase with duration of use. Patients with cardiovascular disease or risk factors for cardiovascular disease may be at greater risk (see WARNINGS and CLINICAL TRIALS).

• MOBIC is contraindicated for the treatment of peri-operative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery (see WARNINGS).

Gastrointestinal Risk

• NSAIDs cause an increased risk of serious gastrointestinal 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 are at greater risk for serious gastrointestinal events (see WARNINGS).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

MOBIC is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to meloxicam.

MOBIC should not be given to patients who have experienced asthma, urticaria, or allergic-type reactions after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs. Severe, rarely fatal, anaphylactoid reactions to NSAIDs have been reported in such patients (see WARNINGS, Anaphylactoid Reactions, and PRECAUTIONS, Pre-existing Asthma).

MOBIC is contraindicated for the treatment of peri-operative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery (see WARNINGS).

WARNINGS

Cardiovascular Effects

Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events

Clinical trials of several COX-2 selective and nonselective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, myocardial infarction, and stroke, which can be fatal. All NSAIDs, both COX-2 selective and nonselective, may have a similar risk. Patients with known CV disease or risk factors for CV disease may be at greater risk. To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event in patients treated with an NSAID, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should remain alert for the development of such events, even in the absence of previous CV symptoms. Patients should be informed about the signs and/or 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 does increase the risk of serious GI events (see WARNINGS, Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects - Risk of GI Ulceration, Bleeding, and Perforation).

Two large, controlled, clinical trials of a COX-2 selective NSAID for the treatment of pain in the first 10-14 days following CABG surgery found an increased incidence of myocardial infarction and stroke (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Hypertension

NSAIDs, including MOBIC, can lead to onset of new hypertension or worsening of pre-existing hypertension, either of which may contribute to the increased incidence of CV events. Patients taking thiazides or loop diuretics may have impaired response to these therapies when taking NSAIDs. NSAIDs, including MOBIC, should be used with caution in patients with hypertension. Blood pressure (BP) should be monitored closely during the initiation of NSAID treatment and throughout the course of therapy.

Congestive Heart Failure and Edema

Fluid retention and edema have been observed in some patients taking NSAIDs. MOBIC should be used with caution in patients with fluid retention, hypertension, or heart failure.

Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects - Risk of GI Ulceration, Bleeding, and Perforation

NSAIDs, including MOBIC, can cause serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including inflammation, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the 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 NSAIDs. 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, occur in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3-6 months, and in about 2-4% of patients treated for one year. These trends continue with longer duration of use increasing the likelihood of developing a serious GI event at some time during the course of therapy. However, even short-term therapy is not without risk.

NSAIDs should be prescribed with extreme caution in those with a prior history of ulcer disease or gastrointestinal bleeding. Patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or gastrointestinal bleeding who use NSAIDs have a greater than 10-fold increased risk for developing a GI bleed compared to patients with neither of these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk for GI bleeding in patients treated with NSAIDs include concomitant use of oral corticosteroids or anticoagulants, longer duration of NSAID therapy, smoking, use of alcohol, older age, and poor general health status. Most spontaneous reports of fatal GI events are in elderly or debilitated patients and therefore, special care should be taken in treating this population.

To minimize the potential risk for an adverse GI event in patients treated with an NSAID, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest possible duration. Patients and physicians should remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during NSAID therapy and promptly initiate additional evaluation and treatment if a serious GI adverse event is suspected. This should include discontinuation of the NSAID until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out. For high-risk patients, alternate therapies that do not involve NSAIDs should be considered.

Renal Effects

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 a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug 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, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and ACE inhibitors, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state.

Advanced Renal Disease

No information is available from controlled clinical studies regarding the use of MOBIC in patients with advanced renal disease. Therefore, treatment with MOBIC is not recommended in these patients with advanced renal disease. If MOBIC therapy must be initiated, close monitoring of the patient's renal function is advisable.

Anaphylactoid Reactions

As with other NSAIDs, anaphylactoid reactions have occurred in patients without known prior exposure to MOBIC. MOBIC should not be given to patients with the aspirin triad. This symptom complex typically occurs in asthmatic patients who experience rhinitis with or without nasal polyps, or who exhibit severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and PRECAUTIONS, Pre-existing Asthma). Emergency help should be sought in cases where an anaphylactoid reaction occurs.

Skin Reactions

NSAIDs, including MOBIC, can cause serious skin adverse events such as exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), which can be fatal. These serious events may occur without warning. Patients should be informed about the signs and symptoms of serious skin manifestations and use of the drug should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Pregnancy

In late pregnancy, as with other NSAIDs, MOBIC should be avoided because it may cause premature closure of the ductus arteriosus.

PRECAUTIONS

General

MOBIC cannot be expected to substitute for corticosteroids or to treat corticosteroid insufficiency. Abrupt discontinuation of corticosteroids may lead to disease exacerbation. Patients on prolonged corticosteroid therapy should have their therapy tapered slowly if a decision is made to discontinue corticosteroids.

The pharmacological activity of MOBIC in reducing fever and inflammation may diminish the utility of these diagnostic signs in detecting complications of presumed noninfectious, painful conditions.

Hepatic Effects

Borderline elevations of one or more liver tests may occur in up to 15% of patients taking NSAIDs including MOBIC. These laboratory abnormalities may progress, may remain unchanged, or may be transient with continuing therapy. Notable elevations of ALT or AST (approximately three or more times the upper limit of normal) have been reported in approximately 1% of patients in clinical trials with NSAIDs. In addition, rare cases of severe hepatic reactions, including jaundice and fatal fulminant hepatitis, liver necrosis and hepatic failure, some of them with fatal outcomes have been reported.

A patient with symptoms and/or signs suggesting liver dysfunction, or in whom an abnormal liver test has occurred, should be evaluated for evidence of the development of a more severe hepatic reaction while on therapy with MOBIC. If clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifestations occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash, etc.), MOBIC should be discontinued.

Renal Effects

Caution should be used when initiating treatment with MOBIC in patients with considerable dehydration. It is advisable to rehydrate patients first and then start therapy with MOBIC. Caution is also recommended in patients with pre-existing kidney disease (see WARNINGS, Renal Effects and Advanced Renal Disease).

The extent to which metabolites may accumulate in patients with renal failure has not been studied with MOBIC. Because some MOBIC metabolites are excreted by the kidney, patients with significantly impaired renal function should be more closely monitored.

Hematological Effects

Anemia is sometimes seen in patients receiving NSAIDs, including MOBIC. This may be due to fluid retention, occult or gross GI blood loss, or an incompletely described effect upon erythropoiesis. Patients on long-term treatment with NSAIDs, including MOBIC, should have their hemoglobin or hematocrit checked if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia.

Drugs which inhibit the biosynthesis of prostaglandins may interfere to some extent with platelet function and vascular responses to bleeding.

NSAIDs inhibit platelet aggregation and have been shown to prolong bleeding time in some patients. Unlike aspirin their effect on platelet function is quantitatively less, of shorter duration, and reversible. Patients receiving MOBIC who may be adversely affected by alterations in platelet function, such as those with coagulation disorders or patients receiving anticoagulants, should be carefully monitored.

Pre-existing Asthma

Patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma. The use of aspirin in patients with aspirin-sensitive asthma has been associated with severe bronchospasm which can be fatal. Since cross reactivity, including bronchospasm, between aspirin and other NSAIDs has been reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, MOBIC should not be administered to patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity and should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing asthma.

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed of the following information before initiating therapy with an NSAID and periodically during the course of ongoing therapy. Patients should also be encouraged to read the NSAID Medication Guide that accompanies each prescription dispensed.

1. MOBIC, like other NSAIDs, may cause serious CV side effects, such as MI or stroke, which may result in hospitalization and even death. Although serious CV events can occur without warning symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, slurring of speech, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative sign or symptoms. Patients should be apprised of the importance of this follow-up (see WARNINGS, Cardiovascular Effects).
2. MOBIC, like other NSAIDs, can cause GI discomfort and, rarely, serious GI side effects, such as ulcers and bleeding, which may result in hospitalization and even death. Although serious GI tract ulcerations and bleeding can occur without warning symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of ulcerations and bleeding, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative sign or symptoms including epigastric pain, dyspepsia, melena, and hematemesis. Patients should be apprised of the importance of this follow-up (see WARNINGS, Gastrointestinal (GI) Effects - Risk of GI Ulceration, Bleeding, and Perforation).
3. MOBIC, like other NSAIDs, can cause serious skin side effects such as exfoliative dermatitis, SJS, and TEN, which may result in hospitalizations and even death. Although serious skin reactions may occur without warning, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of skin rash and blisters, fever, or other signs of hypersensitivity such as itching, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative signs or symptoms. Patients should be advised to stop the drug immediately if they develop any type of rash and contact their physicians as soon as possible.
4. Patients should promptly report signs or symptoms of unexplained weight gain or edema to their physicians.
5. Patients should be informed of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and "flu-like" symptoms). If these occur, patients should be instructed to stop therapy and seek immediate medical therapy.
6. Patients should be informed of the signs of an anaphylactoid reaction (e.g., difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat). If these occur, patients should be instructed to seek immediate emergency help (see WARNINGS).
7. In late pregnancy, as with other NSAIDs, MOBIC should be avoided because it will cause premature closure of the ductus arteriosus.

Laboratory Tests

Because serious GI tract ulcerations and bleeding can occur without warning symptoms, physicians should monitor for signs or symptoms of GI bleeding. Patients on long-term treatment with NSAIDs should have their CBC and a chemistry profile checked periodically. If clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver or renal disease develop, systemic manifestations occur (e.g., eosinophilia, rash, etc.) or if abnormal liver tests persist or worsen, MOBIC should be discontinued.

Drug Interactions

ACE-inhibitors

Reports suggest that NSAIDs may diminish the antihypertensive effect of ACE-inhibitors. This interaction should be given consideration in patients taking NSAIDs concomitantly with ACE inhibitors.

Aspirin

When MOBIC is administered with aspirin (1000 mg TID) to healthy volunteers, it tended to increase the AUC (10%) and C_{max} (24%) of meloxicam. The clinical significance of this interaction is not known; however, as with other NSAIDs concomitant administration of meloxicam and

ers can also try to increase employer-sponsored coverage with mandates that require employers to cover workers or pay a fee to the state to arrange coverage. Such a proposal was recently defeated in California.

Such “pay-or-play” proposals “reemerge every few years in the states,” Ms. Silow-Carroll said. “If a state is very serious about boosting [employer sponsored insurance] in a big way, a pay-or-play type approach really should be on the table as one of the options considered.”

All of these strategies can stand alone but should be part of a comprehensive approach that deals with cost containment, cost issues, and quality issues, and various

aspects of different uninsured populations, she said.

Strategies that build on employer-sponsored insurance have advantages for states, Ms. Silow-Carroll said, because they offer a way to expand access to coverage without the state bearing the full cost. For example, the Rhode Island premium assistance program allows the state to cover a family for half the cost under its traditional assistance programs like Medicaid.

But a key limitation, she said, is that under voluntary strategies there has historically been fairly low employer participation—especially among employers who have never offered coverage in the past. ■

aspirin is not generally recommended because of the potential for increased adverse effects.

Concomitant administration of low-dose aspirin with MOBIC may result in an increased rate of GI ulceration or other complications, compared to use of MOBIC alone. MOBIC is not a substitute for aspirin for cardiovascular prophylaxis.

Cholestyramine

Pretreatment for four days with cholestyramine significantly increased the clearance of meloxicam by 50%. This resulted in a decrease in $t_{1/2}$ from 19.2 hours to 12.5 hours, and a 35% reduction in AUC. This suggests the existence of a recirculation pathway for meloxicam in the gastrointestinal tract. The clinical relevance of this interaction has not been established.

Cimetidine

Concomitant administration of 200 mg cimetidine QID did not alter the single-dose pharmacokinetics of 30 mg meloxicam.

Digoxin

Meloxicam 15 mg once daily for 7 days did not alter the plasma concentration profile of digoxin after β -acetyldigoxin administration for 7 days at clinical doses. *In vitro* testing found no protein binding drug interaction between digoxin and meloxicam.

Furosemide

Clinical studies, as well as post-marketing observations, have shown that NSAIDs can reduce the natriuretic effect of furosemide and thiazides in some patients. This response has been attributed to inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis. Studies with furosemide agents and meloxicam have not demonstrated a reduction in natriuretic effect. Furosemide single and multiple dose pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics are not affected by multiple doses of meloxicam. Nevertheless, during concomitant therapy with MOBIC, patients should be observed closely for signs of declining renal failure (see **WARNINGS, Renal Effects**), as well as to assure diuretic efficacy.

Lithium

In a study conducted in healthy subjects, mean pre-dose lithium concentration and AUC were increased by 21% in subjects receiving lithium doses ranging from 804 to 1072 mg BID with meloxicam 15 mg QD as compared to subjects receiving lithium alone. These effects have been attributed to inhibition of renal prostaglandin synthesis by MOBIC. Patients on lithium treatment should be closely monitored for signs of lithium toxicity when MOBIC is introduced, adjusted, or withdrawn.

Methotrexate

NSAIDs have been reported to competitively inhibit methotrexate accumulation in rabbit kidney slices. This may indicate that they could enhance the toxicity of methotrexate. Caution should be used when NSAIDs are administered concomitantly with methotrexate.

A study in 13 rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients evaluated the effects of multiple doses of meloxicam on the pharmacokinetics of methotrexate taken once weekly. Meloxicam did not have a significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of single doses of methotrexate. *In vitro*, methotrexate did not displace meloxicam from its human serum binding sites.

Warfarin

The effects of warfarin and NSAIDs on GI bleeding are synergistic, such that users of both drugs together have a risk of serious GI bleeding higher than users of either drug alone.

Anticoagulant activity should be monitored, particularly in the first few days after initiating or changing MOBIC therapy in patients receiving warfarin or similar agents, since these patients are at an increased risk of bleeding. The effect of meloxicam on the anticoagulant effect of warfarin was studied in a group of healthy subjects receiving daily doses of warfarin that produced an INR (International Normalized Ratio) between 1.2 and 1.8. In these subjects, meloxicam did not alter warfarin pharmacokinetics and the average anticoagulant effect of warfarin as determined by prothrombin time. However, one subject showed an increase in INR from 1.5 to 2.1. Caution should be used when administering MOBIC with warfarin since patients on warfarin may experience changes in INR and an increased risk of bleeding complications when a new medication is introduced.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No carcinogenic effect of meloxicam was observed in rats given oral doses up to 0.8 mg/kg/day (approximately 0.4-fold the human dose at 15 mg/day for a 50 kg adult based on body surface area conversion) for 104 weeks or in mice given oral doses up to 8.0 mg/kg/day (approximately 2.2-fold the human dose, as noted above) for 99 weeks.

Meloxicam was not mutagenic in an Ames assay, or clastogenic in a chromosome aberration assay with human lymphocytes and an *in vivo* micronucleus test in mouse bone marrow.

Meloxicam did not impair male and female fertility in rats at oral doses up to 9 and 5 mg/kg/day, respectively (4.9-fold and 2.5-fold the human dose, as noted above). However, an increased incidence of embryo/lethality at oral doses \geq 1 mg/kg/day (0.5-fold the human dose, as noted above) was observed in rats when dams were given meloxicam 2 weeks prior to mating and during early embryonic development.

Pregnancy

Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C.

Meloxicam caused an increased incidence of septal defect of the heart, a rare event, at an oral dose of 60 mg/kg/day (64.5-fold the human dose at 15 mg/day for a 50 kg adult based on body surface area conversion) and embryo/lethality at oral doses \geq 5 mg/kg/day (5.4-fold the human dose, as noted above) when rabbits were treated throughout organogenesis. Meloxicam was not teratogenic in rats up to an oral dose of 4 mg/kg/day (approximately 2.2-fold the human dose, as noted above) throughout organogenesis. An increased incidence of stillbirths was observed when rats were given oral doses \geq 1 mg/kg/day throughout organogenesis. Meloxicam crosses the placental barrier. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. MOBIC should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nonteratogenic Effects

Because of the known effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on the fetal cardiovascular system (closure of ductus arteriosus), use during pregnancy (particularly late pregnancy) should be avoided.

Meloxicam caused a reduction in birth index, live births, and neonatal survival at oral doses \geq 0.125 mg/kg/day (approximately 0.07-fold the human dose at 15 mg/day for a 50 kg adult based on body surface area conversion) when rats were treated during the late gestation and lactation period. No studies have been conducted to evaluate the effect of meloxicam on the closure of the ductus arteriosus in humans; use of meloxicam during the third trimester of pregnancy should be avoided.

Labor and Delivery

Studies in rats with meloxicam, as with other drugs known to inhibit prostaglandin synthesis, showed an increased incidence of stillbirths, prolonged delivery, and delayed parturition at oral dosages \geq 1 mg/kg/day (approximately 0.5-fold the human dose at 15 mg/day for a 50 kg adult based on body surface area conversion), and decreased pup survival at an oral dose of 4 mg/kg/day (approximately 2.1-fold the human dose, as noted above) throughout organogenesis. Similar findings were observed in rats receiving oral dosages \geq 0.125 mg/kg/day (approximately 0.07-fold the human dose, as noted above) during late gestation and the lactation period.

The effects of MOBIC on labor and delivery in pregnant women are unknown.

Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk however, meloxicam was excreted in the milk of lactating rats at concentrations higher than those in plasma. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from MOBIC, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of meloxicam in pediatric JRA patients from 2 to 17 years of age has been evaluated in three clinical trials (see **CLINICAL TRIALS, ADVERSE REACTIONS AND DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** sections).

PRODUCTS

Oral Medication Dispenser

The design of the Exacta-Med dispenser prevents the attachment of a luer needle hub or a needleless connector, to help eliminate potential error from wrong-route oral liquid medication administration. For more information, contact Baxa Corp. by visiting www.baxa.com or by calling 800-567-2292.

Relief for Plantar Fasciitis

The Plantar FXT stretches the plantar fascia muscle in the bottom of the foot to help relieve the pain of plantar fasciitis.

The booty can be worn at night and in the day while seated. For more information, contact Swede-O Inc. by visiting www.swedeo.com or by calling 800-525-9339.

Spinal Pressure Measurement

The Accu-Disc pressure monitoring system allows accurate delivery of fluids to the body with the ability to monitor the pressure of those fluids in discography interpretation. For more information, contact Integra Spinal Specialties by visiting www.spinalspecialties.com or by calling 800-678-6065.

Geriatric Use

As with any NSAID, caution should be exercised in treating the elderly (65 years and older).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adults

Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis

The MOBIC Phase 2/3 clinical trial database includes 10,122 OA patients and 1012 RA patients treated with MOBIC 7.5 mg/day, 3,505 OA patients and 1351 RA patients treated with MOBIC 15 mg/day. MOBIC at these doses was administered to 661 patients for at least 6 months and to 312 patients for at least one year. Approximately 10,500 of these patients were treated in ten placebo and/or active-controlled osteoarthritis trials and 2363 of these patients were treated in ten placebo and/or active-controlled rheumatoid arthritis trials. Gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events were the most frequently reported adverse events in all treatment groups across MOBIC trials.

A 12-week multicenter, double-blind, randomized trial was conducted in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee or hip to compare the efficacy and safety of MOBIC with placebo and with an active control. Two 12-week multicenter, double-blind, randomized trials were conducted in patients with rheumatoid arthritis to compare the efficacy and safety of MOBIC with placebo.

The following adverse events (%) occurred in \geq 2% of MOBIC 7.5 mg daily (n=154) and 15 mg daily (n=156) patients, respectively, in a 12-week osteoarthritis placebo- and active-controlled trial: abdominal pain, 1.9%, 2.6%; diarrhea, 7.8%, 3.2%; dyspepsia, 4.5%, 4.5%; flatulence, 3.2%, 3.2%; nausea, 3.9%, 3.8%; accident household, 4.5%, 3.2%; edema¹, 1.9%, 4.5%; fall, 2.6%, 0.0%; influenza-like symptoms, 4.5%, 5.8%; dizziness, 2.6%, 3.8%; headache, 7.8%, 8.3%; pharyngitis, 0.6%, 3.2%; upper respiratory tract infection, 3.2%, 1.9%; rash², 2.6%, 0.6%.

The following adverse events (%) occurred with MOBIC 7.5 mg daily in \geq 2% of patients treated, respectively, in short-term (4-6 weeks) and long-term (6 months) active-controlled osteoarthritis trials: abdominal pain, 2.7%, 4.7%; constipation, 0.8%, 1.8%; diarrhea, 1.9%, 5.9%; dyspepsia, 3.8%, 8.9%; flatulence, 0.5%, 3.0%; nausea, 2.4%, 4.7%; vomiting, 0.8%, 1.8%; edema¹, 2.0%, 1.6%; pain, 0.9%, 3.6%; dizziness, 1.1%, 2.4%; headache, 2.4%, 3.6%; anemia, 0.1%, 4.1%; arthralgia, 0.5%, 5.3%; back pain, 0.5%, 3.0%; insomnia, 0.4%, 3.6%; coughing, 0.2%, 2.4%; upper respiratory tract infection, 0.2%, 8.3%; pruritus, 0.4%, 2.4%; rash², 0.3%, 3.0%; micturition frequency, 0.1%, 2.4%; urinary tract infection, 0.3%, 4.7%.

The following adverse events (%) occurred with MOBIC 15 mg daily in \geq 2% of patients treated, respectively, in short-term (4-6 weeks) and long-term (6 months) active-controlled osteoarthritis trials: abdominal pain, 2.3%, 2.9%; constipation, 1.2%, 2.6%; diarrhea, 2.7%, 2.6%; dyspepsia, 7.4%, 9.5%; flatulence, 0.4%, 2.6%; nausea, 4.7%, 7.2%; vomiting, 0.8%, 2.6%; edema¹, 2.0%, 1.6%; pain, 2.0%, 5.2%; dizziness, 1.6%, 2.6%; headache, 2.7%, 2.6%; anemia, 0.0%, 2.9%; arthralgia, 0.0%, 1.3%; back pain, 0.4%, 0.7%; insomnia, 0.0%, 1.6%; coughing, 0.8%, 1.0%; upper respiratory tract infection, 0.0%, 7.5%; pruritus, 1.2%, 0.0%; rash², 1.2%, 1.3%; micturition frequency, 0.4%, 1.3%; urinary tract infection, 0.4%, 6.9%.

¹WHO preferred terms edema, edema dependent, edema peripheral and edema legs combined.

²WHO preferred terms rash, rash erythematous and rash maculo-papular combined.

The following adverse events (%) occurred respectively with MOBIC 7.5 and 15 mg daily in \geq 2% of patients treated in two 12-week rheumatoid arthritis placebo controlled trials: abdominal pain NOS³, 2.9%, 2.3%; diarrhea NOS³, 4.8%, 3.4%; dyspeptic signs and symptoms⁴, 5.8%, 4.0%; nausea⁴, 3.3%, 3.8%; influenza like illness⁴, 2.9% 2.3%; upper respiratory tract infections-pathogen class unspecified⁴, 7.0%, 6.5%; joint related signs and symptoms⁴, 1.5%, 2.3%; musculoskeletal and connective tissue signs and symptoms NEC⁴, 1.7% 2.9%; headaches NOS⁴, 6.4%, 5.5%; dizziness (excl vertigo)⁴, 2.3%, 0.4%; rash NOS⁴, 1.0%, 2.1%.

³MedDRA high level term (preferred terms): dyspeptic signs and symptoms (dyspepsia, dyspepsia aggravated, eructation, gastrointestinal irritation), upper respiratory tract infections-pathogen unspecified (laryngitis NOS, pharyngitis NOS, sinusitis NOS), joint related signs and symptoms (arthralgia, arthralgia aggravated, joint crepitation, joint effusion, joint swelling), and musculoskeletal and connective tissue signs and symptoms NEC (back pain, back pain aggravated, muscle spasms, musculoskeletal pain).

⁴MedDRA preferred term: diarrhea NOS, abdominal pain NOS, influenza like illness, headaches NOS, dizziness (excl vertigo), and rash NOS.

Higher doses of MOBIC (22.5 mg and greater) have been associated with an increased risk of serious GI events; therefore the daily dose of MOBIC should not exceed 15 mg.

Pediatrics

Pauciarticular and Polyarticular Course Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA)

Three hundred and eighty-seven patients with pauciarticular and polyarticular course JRA were exposed to MOBIC with doses ranging from 0.125 to 0.375 mg/kg per day in three clinical trials. These studies consisted of two 12-week multicenter, double-blind, randomized trials (one with a 12-week open-label extension and one with a 40-week extension) and one 1-year open-label PK study. The adverse events observed in these pediatric studies with MOBIC were similar in nature to the adult clinical trial experience, although there were differences in frequency. In particular, the following most common adverse events — abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, and pyrexia — were more common in the pediatric than in the adult trials. Rash was reported in seven (<2%) patients receiving MOBIC. No unexpected adverse events were identified during the course of the trials. The adverse events did not demonstrate an age or gender-specific subgroup effect.

The following is a list of adverse drug reactions occurring in < 2% of patients receiving MOBIC in clinical trials involving approximately 16,200 patients. Adverse reactions reported only in worldwide post-marketing experience or the literature are shown in italics and are considered rare (< 0.1%).

Body as a Whole	allergic reaction, <i>anaphylactoid reactions including shock</i> , face edema, fatigue, fever, hot flushes, malaise, syncope, weight decrease, weight increase
Cardiovascular	angina pectoris, cardiac failure, hypertension, hypotension, myocardial infarction, vasculitis
Central and Peripheral Nervous System	convulsions, paresthesia, tremor, vertigo
Gastrointestinal	colitis, dry mouth, duodenal ulcer, eructation, esophagitis, gastric ulcer, gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, hematemesis, hemorrhagic duodenal ulcer, hemorrhagic gastric ulcer, intestinal perforation, melena, pancreatitis, perforated duodenal ulcer, perforated gastric ulcer, stomatitis ulcerative
Heart Rate and Rhythm	arrhythmia, palpitation, tachycardia
Hematologic	<i>agranulocytosis</i> , leukopenia, purpura, thrombocytopenia
Liver and Biliary System	ALT increased, AST increased, bilirubinemia, GGT increased, hepatitis, <i>jaundice</i> , <i>liver failure</i>
Metabolic and Nutritional	dehydration
Psychiatric Disorders	abnormal dreaming, anxiety, appetite increased, confusion, depression, nervousness, somnolence