



## Investor News

---

### **Advisory Panel Discussion points to Aleve<sup>®</sup>**

Members of FDA Committees Support Safety of Naproxen, Active Ingredient in Aleve<sup>®</sup>

---

**Morristown, USA / February 23, 2005** – Bayer HealthCare's Consumer Care Division said today it was pleased that discussions by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Arthritis and Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committees clarified conflicting reports about the safety of Aleve<sup>®</sup> that have confused and, in some instances, alarmed consumers and healthcare professionals.

The discussion at the Meeting of the Advisory Committees affirmed the safety of Aleve and distinguished the safety profile of naproxen, the active ingredient in Aleve, from selective COX-2 inhibitors and other non-selective nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), based on the weight of clinical data presented at the meeting. Some members of the panel even suggested that naproxen should be the standard by which future pain relievers should be measured for cardiovascular safety.

The presentations and discussions before the Committees also clarified that the widely publicized suspension of the Alzheimer's Disease Anti-Inflammatory Prevention Trial (ADAPT) on December 20, 2004 was precipitated not by Aleve safety concerns, but rather by administrative and practical issues.

Bayer presented data to the Committees that underscored the nearly 30-year safety profile of naproxen. Bayer's naproxen sodium formulation has been sold as an over-the-counter (OTC) product under the trade name Aleve since 1994.

"The recommendations and findings discussed by the Committees support our confidence that Aleve is safe and effective when taken as directed," said Erica Peitler, Senior Vice President of Research and Development. "We are committed to the

welfare of our consumers and appreciate the help of the Committees in restoring public confidence in Aleve.”

Leverkusen, February 23, 2005

Bayer AG, Investor Relations contacts:

Dr. Alexander Rosar (+49-214-30-81013)

Dr. Juergen Beunink (+49-214-30-65742)

Peter Dahlhoff (+49-214-30-33022)

Ute Krippendorf (+49-214-30-33021)

Ilia Kürten (+49-214-30-35426)

Judith Nestmann (+49-214-30-66836)

Bayer HealthCare AG, a subgroup of Bayer AG with sales of approximately 8.9 billion Euro in 2003, is one of the world's leading, innovative companies in the health care and medical products industry.

The company combines the global activities of the divisions Animal Health, Biological Products, Consumer Care, Diabetes Care, Diagnostics and Pharmaceuticals. 34,600 people are employed by Bayer HealthCare worldwide.

Aim of Bayer HealthCare is to discover and manufacture innovative products that will improve human and animal health worldwide. Our products enhance well-being and quality of life by diagnosing, preventing and treating disease.

**Forward-looking statements**

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including our Form 20-F). The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.