

**ARTHRITIS DURING MENOPAUSE:
AN ITALIAN DRUG STOPS PROGRESSION**

At the NAMS Congress (*North American Menopausal Society*), the study conducted with Glucosamine Sulfate was given the prestigious New Investigator Award 2001.

New Orleans October 2001. Good news for menopausal women: Arthritis - the degenerating process affecting 60% of the over-60 of the women population can be stopped. The news comes out of the XII annual NAMS meeting currently being held in New Orleans until October 6th, during which the results of a study conducted on 414 patients, 77% of them in post-menopausal age, treated with a molecule discovered by an Italian Research team, Glucosamine Sulfate, have been revealed.

For the first time in the world, this drug (a totally natural product present in the organism) against arthritis has been clinically tested on menopausal women, yielding significant results in terms of improvements in quality of life. This makes Glucosamine Sulfate the only potential innovative therapy against arthritis; it acts not only on the symptoms, as other anti-inflammatory drugs, but it also stops the deteriorating process of the joints. The results demonstrate that the drug significantly reduces the structural progression of the illness and inhibits further development. Women treated with Glucosamine Sulfate, in fact, have shown a minor reduction of spacing between the joints.

The WOMAC Index (Western Ontario MAC-MASTER University) that measures pain, stiffness and functional capacity in arthritis patients, has improved 5.5% in women treated with Glucosamine Sulfate, while it has decreased 15.4% in those women who received placebo.

This translates, according to the author of the study, Prof. Yves Reginster of the University of Liège, and Pharmacologist Lucio Rovati, of Rottapharm Laboratories, Monza, into a substantial improvement in the quality of life in women affected by menopausal related problems, a period that now covers 30 years in a life of a woman.