

## **Glucosamine sulfate shows promise in the fight against osteoarthritis**

*Wall, NJ, October 23, 2002* - (EMBARGOED AT 12:00 A.M., OCTOBER 22, 2002) - Glucosamine sulfate is among the most potent agents studied for the treatment of osteoarthritis, and new data shows that it is one of the necessary substances to rejuvenate worn-out joints. This new finding comes from a study of Dona, a glucosamine sulfate agent, conducted by Prof. Pavelka of Prague University in collaboration with the Rottapharm Laboratories located in Monza, Italy, published in the October 14, 2002 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine. Until today, the treatment of osteoarthritis has utilized anti-inflammatory drugs and pain relievers to control the symptoms, but this therapy was not able to influence the progression of the disease. However, treatment with glucosamine sulfate (1500 mg once daily, protracted for three years) has been able to slow disease progression and improve symptoms of the disease in 202 patients study participants. The study further shows it is now possible to stop osteoarthritis from its progression and improve a patient's quality of life while relieving or eliminating his symptoms. During the three years of study follow-up, patients treated with glucosamine sulfate did not show any significant reduction of tibiofemoral joint space width compared with patients receiving placebo. Furthermore, glucosamine sulfate such as Dona shows long-term benefits on symptoms, pain and joint mobility, without any significant side effect. "Anti-inflammatory drugs, including the new cox 2 inhibitors have been associated with adverse events like gastrointestinal and cardiovascular problems," says Dr. Lucio Rovati, professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Napoli, scientific director of Rottapharm and co-author of the study. "This molecule allows us to control the patient's symptoms over the long term without the need to use any other drug, except when required by an acute inflammatory relapse." "With two studies published in international peer-reviewed journals, there are no more doubts that the long-term utilization of glucosamine sulfate is able to control long-term symptoms, drastically reduce pain and improve articular functionality, at any age," adds Dr Rovati. "Above all, it is the second time that a slower progression is obtained, and over three years the disease is even stopped, with no progression of structural joint damage. This is the primary objective of the fight against arthritis, because once the joint is deteriorated, the disease inevitably progresses to invalidity. If we can contain the worsening of structural damage, we should be able to slow or even abolish the progression of disability," concludes Dr Rovati.