

phen or aspirin to the Darvon that you found some studies to show it more effective? Is that correct?

Dr. MOERTEL. When acetaminophen or APC or aspirin were added to Darvon, most studies showed no difference to the over-the-counter drugs used alone.

There were three that showed an advantage for Darvon with over-the-counter combination, there were three that showed the advantage for the over-the-counter preparation used alone.

Senator NELSON. My question was, is it that Darvon with aspirin or acetaminophen then showed a difference over Darvon alone? Is that not correct?

Dr. MOERTEL. No; I did not display any studies of this kind.

There are studies of this kind that have been reported in the literature that do show that addition of aspirin or APC to Darvon does produce an improvement in pain effect over Darvon alone, but these were not displayed in my charts or in the material which I have presented to you.

Senator MORGAN. Dr. Moertel, if I follow you correctly, then your conclusions are that the ad compared Anacin, an over-the-counter drug, as being as good as Darvon, is that correct?

Dr. MOERTEL. Yes.

Senator NELSON. I did not hear that.

Dr. MOERTEL. I think it was predicted ahead of time that this would be shown, as the research studies were contracted.

Senator MORGAN. What I was saying, Mr. Chairman, that the witness addressed those ads that say that Anacin or other aspirin, which are over-the-counter drugs, are just as good as Darvon.

Senator NELSON. The evidence from your studies showed that they are better than Darvon, did they not—that aspirin alone or acetaminophen alone is more effective?

Mr. MOERTEL. Than Darvon alone, that is correct, but when Darvon is added to the aspirin, then it comes out about the same as aspirin.

Senator MORGAN. I have seen in the literature Darvon-N or Darvon-T.

What does it mean?

Dr. MOERTEL. The original preparation of propoxyphene as it was marketed in 1957, was a hydrochloride compound.

More recently, Darvon napsylate or Darvon-N has been prepared. Darvon napsylate is just another tag that is chemically put on the end of the Darvon molecule.

It does not in any way influence the analgesic effect of Darvon, and that has been proven repeatedly.

It was put on the market, because it provides a more stable tablet formulation with aspirin. You could mix it up in the same compressed capsule with aspirin, better than you can the hydrochloride form.

Senator MORGAN. So when you are referring to Darvon, it does not matter whether it has the T or the N to it?

Dr. MOERTEL. Provided they were used therapeutically in equivalent doses.

Senator MORGAN. 100 milligram napsylate is equivalent to 65 milligrams of the other, in other words?

Dr. MOERTEL. Yes.