

EFFICACY OF PROPOXYPHENE

As I have said, NAS-NRC reviewed propoxyphene products for efficacy in the late 60's. The chairman of the NAS-NRC Drug Efficacy Study Group Panel on Drugs for Relief of Pain was Louis Lasagna, M.D., an expert in the field of clinical pharmacology and analgesia. A 1966 article review by William T. Beaver, M.D., another expert in the field of analgesia, concluded as follows:

"In summary, dextropropoxyphene is a mild oral analgesic which has proven superior to placebo in doses of 65 mg or more but which is of questionable efficacy in doses lower than 65 mg. The drug is definitely less potent than codeine, the best available estimates of the relative potency of the two drugs indicating that dextropropoxyphene is approximately 1/2 to 2/3 as potent as the latter drug. Likewise dextropropoxyphene in 32 mg to 65 mg doses is certainly no more, and possibly less effective than the usually used doses of aspirin or A.P.C."

FDA announced the results of the DESI review in 1969. The announcement described the indications for which the drugs were deemed effective-- for the relief of mild to moderate pain.