

16812 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

Reservations about the efficacy of propoxyphene continued to be expressed during the 70's:

- R. R. Miller et al. in 1970 reviewed all available double-blind studies of propoxyphene and concluded that it ". . . is no more effective than aspirin or codeine and may even be inferior to these analgesics."
- C. G. Moertel et al. in a 1972 double-blind study of single doses of propoxyphene, aspirin, and other oral analgesics in patients with cancer, were unable to show that even 65 mg of propoxyphene was significantly superior to placebo. In this study, aspirin was the most effective analgesic tested.
- R. R. Miller in a second review in 1977 concluded that propoxyphene was no more effective than placebo in three studies, whereas in five others propoxyphene was no more effective than other analgesics.

On the other hand, Sunshine et al., in a 1978 study, found propoxyphene napsylate at 200 mg (twice the recommended dose) to be significantly better than placebo. The lowest dose used (50 mg) was only slightly better than placebo but the usual dose (100 mg) was not tested.