



Assay: laboratory assistant Susanne Bär tests various adjuvants according to the specifications in the pharmacopeia before they are used to manufacture the Bayer product Aspirin®.

New study of acetylsalicylic acid in cardiovascular prevention

Early protection

Cardiovascular disease leads to more than 17 million deaths every year and is the single leading cause of death worldwide. Administration of acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), the active ingredient in Aspirin®, is an economical yet effective strategy to reduce the risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular (CVD) events – it is already recognized around the globe as the gold standard for prevention of a second myocardial infarction and ischemic stroke and is approved in 36 countries for primary prevention of myocardial infarction. A new major study is now under way to advance the public health goal of broader appropriate Aspirin® use by further demonstrating the efficacy and safety of ASA in preventing first CVD events in people who are at moderate risk.

Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), the active ingredient in Aspirin®, inhibits the coagulation of blood; doctors therefore frequently prescribe it for patients who have suffered a cardiovascular disease (CVD) event such as myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), CVD accounts for 30 percent of all deaths worldwide. A global 2006 report entitled Disease Control Priorities Project and financed by organizations including the WHO and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the United States concluded that daily administration of ASA could significantly reduce the global incidence of cardiovascular disease.

A new study sponsored by Bayer HealthCare is now under way. Called the ARRIVE study (Aspirin® to Reduce Risk of Initial Vascular Events), it is designed to further demonstrate the efficacy and safety of Aspirin® in preventing first CVD events in individuals at moderate risk. The primary study endpoint is a

composite evaluation of the occurrence of non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI), non-fatal stroke, and CV death (including both fatal MI and fatal stroke).

"At least 20 million people survive heart attacks and strokes every year, many of whom require continuing, costly care and are at a high risk of recurrences and death. That is why it is so important to prevent a first CVD event," commented Wes Cetnarowski, MD, senior vice president of Global Research and Development at Bayer HealthCare's Consumer Care Division.


12,000 patients from five countries to take part

First presented at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress in Vienna in September 2007, ARRIVE is one of the most comprehensive studies involving acetylsalicylic acid ever to be carried out in patients at moderate risk for cardiovascular disease. Some 12,000 patients

from Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States will take part in the double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study. Over an anticipated period of five years, investigators will study the effect of daily administration of acetylsalicylic acid in reducing the occurrence of initial fatal and non-fatal heart attacks and strokes in patients at moderate CVD risk.

"With ARRIVE, we hope to significantly expand the existing data material supporting use of Aspirin for primary prevention of CVD events – this time in a moderate risk population," said Michael Gaziano, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Cardiovascular Epidemiology at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA, and Chairman of the Executive Committee overseeing the ARRIVE trial.

www.arrive-study.com

 This site managed by Bayer HealthCare provides a wealth of background information on the ARRIVE trial and the general subject of Aspirin®.