

## For Immediate Release

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PENDING CONTROVERSIAL FDA APPROVAL OF CELEBREX FOR CHILDREN;  
NEW DNA TEST ALERTS PHYSICIANS AND PARENTS TO POTENTIAL HARM

(SEATTLE) – An FDA advisory panel’s recommendation to allow Celebrex to be marketed to 60,000 children with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis has some experts concerned over long-term health effects. Patients may take the medicine for decades, and Celebrex is a member of the COX2 inhibitor class of drugs that include Vioxx and Bextra, both pulled from the market by the FDA because of serious or fatal heart disease or stroke associated with the drugs.

According to Howard Coleman, CEO of Genelex Corporation, “thousands of children have a decreased ability to process Celebrex that can be identified by a simple DNA test for the CYP2C9 enzyme that alerts parents and physicians that the drug could cause harm to the child.” Approximately five percent of the population has trouble processing Celebrex causing dangerous accumulation in the bloodstream.

“No medicine that could potentially harm patients should be prescribed without knowing how that individual processes the drug. It’s time that physicians, patients and parents responsibly determine how a drug will affect them before it is used” continued Coleman.

Strattera, another drug approved by the FDA for use in children suffering from ADHD, can cause serious liver damage – damage that could be averted by DNA testing guided dosage adjustments.

“Celebrex, Strattera and hundreds of other prescriptions, are very helpful medications,” Coleman stated. “Correspondingly, appropriate DNA testing when these drugs are started would save lives and increase efficacy.”

Genelex provides consumer-friendly DNA tests that determine whether prescription, over the counter, and herbal remedies are potentially harmful to the patient. The tests, available to the public without prescription by calling 800 523-3080 or at [www.genelex.com](http://www.genelex.com), are simple to take. DNA is captured by vigorously rubbing the inside of the cheeks with a swab. The swabs are sent to Genelex for testing. Results are sent directly back to the patient, who may share the results with their physician or pharmacist.

Genelex Corporation, Seattle, Washington is a DNA testing laboratory dedicated to bringing the benefits of pharmacogenetic drug reaction testing to patients and their physicians in order to reduce the high levels of morbidity and mortality that result from adverse drug reactions.