Etoricoxib: a French review of adverse effects

- Peripheral oedema, and serious gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and cutaneous disorders.

Etoricoxib is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) said to selectively target cyclo-oxygenase-2. It has been marketed in France since 2010, for the treatment of osteoarthritis pain, despite having more adverse effects than other NSAIDs (1,2).

The Clermont-Ferrand Regional Pharmacovigilance Centre in France reviewed adverse effects attributed to etoricoxib between March 2010 and March 2012, based on data from the French pharmacovigilance system and the company that markets the drug (3).

- Time to onset was known in 59% of cases, and was a median of 9 days (4).
- Outcome was known in 35 cases: 30 patients recovered and 3 "were improving". Two patients died: a 77-year-old man of myocardial infarction (he was also taking gemcitabine and cisplatin). Thirty-two of the 41 patients had a history of heart disorders (4).