

COX-2

INHIBITORS

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(2009)

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Cox-2

Cox-2 (Cyclooxygenase-2) is a protein that acts as an enzyme and specifically catalyses (speeds) the production of certain chemical messengers called "***prostaglandins**". Some of these messengers are responsible for promoting inflammation. Consequently, when Cox-2 activity is blocked (inhibited), inflammation is reduced. Unlike cox-1, cox-2 is active only at the site of inflammation, and not in the stomach.

Cox-1

Cox-1 (Cyclooxygenase-1) is a protein that acts as an enzyme to speed up the production of certain chemical messengers, called prostaglandins, within the stomach. The "***prostaglandins**" work within certain cells that are responsible for inflammation and other functions. For example, they promote the production of the natural mucus lining that protects the inner stomach. Cox-1 is normally present in a variety of areas of the body, including not only the stomach but at any other site of inflammation.

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Cox-2 Inhibitors

Cox-2 inhibitors are newly developed drugs for inflammation that selectively block the cox-2 enzyme.

Blocking this enzyme impedes the production of the chemical messengers (prostaglandins) that cause the pain and swelling of arthritis inflammation, etc.)

****Prostaglandin** - one of a number of hormone-like substances that participate in a wide range of body functions such as the contraction and relaxation of smooth muscle, the dilation and*

constriction of blood vessels, control of blood pressure, and the modulation of inflammation. Prostaglandins are derived from a chemical called arachidonic acid.

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Turmeric

Turmeric is a natural painkiller and a cox-2 inhibitor.

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