Title: A Randomized, Controlled, Clinical Trial of Etoricoxib in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

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The manuscript entitled "A randomized, controlled, clinical trial of etoricoxib in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis" by Estevez et al describes a multicenter trial comparing the effects of 90 mg etoricoxib with 1000 mg naproxen and placebo for 3 months in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Methodologically, the trial was well performed and the efficacy measures are very consistent.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. The major puzzle from this manuscript is the safety data and how they are presented. The significant increase in overall drug-related adverse events with etoricoxib as compared to placebo cannot be explained by the breakdown of adverse events in table 3b. The almost 8% increase in adverse events seen in patients with etoricoxib (i.e. table 3a) cannot be explained by the ~3% increase in headache and hypertension in patients with etoricoxib as compared to placebo in table 3b. The breakdown of adverse events, particularly the serious ones, should be more transparent.
2. Was low dose aspirin use permitted in the study?
3. In the introduction, it is stated the study was performed "at sites throughout the world". Is Japan included in this statement? Is it possible to list the 28 countries involved somewhere in the publication?