

**Hochberg MC, Martel-Pelletier J, et al. Combined chondroitin sulfate and glucosamine for painful knee osteoarthritis: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, non-inferiority trial versus celecoxib. Ann Rheum Dis. published online Jan 24, 2015  
doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2014-206792.**

Design: Randomized non-inferiority clinical trial

Study question: Is a combination of chondroitin sulfate and glucosamine non-inferior to celecoxib in the treatment of knee osteoarthritis?

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- The results cannot be applied to patient in the United States because the preparation used in the study is available only in Europe, and the preparation of the product is very likely to influence its effectiveness
- Celecoxib was actually superior to the combination of glucosamine and chondroitin for the first four months of the study, and non-inferiority was only attained at the six month evaluation
- Therefore, there is too little information in the study to constitute evidence of glucosamine and chondroitin as an effective alternative to celecoxib
- Although a safe alternative to NSAIDS for OA is desirable, this preparation cannot be imported into the United States for that purpose