

## Indian researcher develops new product for joint disorders

**Mumbai, Dec 24, 2010:** Availability of better healthcare facilities and improved standards of living might have increased the average life expectancy of an Indian; but this has caused a paradigm shift in the disease profile of the population. There has been a remarkable increase in the growth of the elderly population. The most common obstacle for the aged population is the problem of joint-pain and decreased mobility. Worldwide osteoarthritis is the most common articular disease of people 65 years and older. It represents a major cause of disability in the United States; and is of concern in developing countries like India as well. Also, painful joint disorders are becoming more common even in younger generation due to strenuous working styles, reduced exercise habits and nutritional imbalances.

In a majority of cases, short term relief is obtained with NSAIDs, but it is not popular, due to serious adverse effects. It only deals with the symptoms, rather than the root cause; and the problem reappears as soon as treatment is stopped. The advanced cases need replacement therapies, which may not be suitable or viable for all.

Research conducted by Dr Sanjay Agrawal, a medical consultant, has shown that strengthening the basic joint structures including cartilages, ligaments and tendons can be achieved by supplementation of joint supporting ingredients. The two most widely studied and clinically used substances are Methyl Sulfonyl Methane (MSM) and Glucosamine. "Doctors usually prescribe these ingredients separately to patients, but for effective results, they need to be used in combination," says Dr Agrawal. Surat-based Zota Healthcare will market this product under the brand name of GMfit.

MSM is the source of organic sulfur in joint structures including cartilage ;and is shown to be effective in reducing or alleviating pain and immobility caused by ailments such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, back pain and numerous additional health conditions. Whereas glucosamine is a precursor for glycosaminoglycans , (a major component of joint cartilage) and thus, its supplementation may help to prevent cartilage degeneration and treat arthritis. ZOTA has gone a way forward in joint care therapy. "We are shortly expecting the results of clinical trials and the product will be launched soon in India and international markets," told Mr Ketan Zota, chairman & managing director.

Dr Agrawal has been successful in coming up with a product for liver disorders, RTFit which again will be marketed by Zota Healthcare. RTFit, an anti-oxidant nutritional supplement, is a unique and novel combination of two amino acids- taurine and racemethionine for liver disorders; particularly for alcoholic hepatitis, with unique mode of action, without any complication due to its natural origin. The company has already started clinical trial of RTFit in various liver disorders, with a sizeable number of patients, to evaluate the efficacy and safety of RTFit, according to Dr Sanjay Agrawal.

Zota Healthcare, Surat (Gujarat)-based pharmaceutical company, has a strong base in domestic as well as in international market. Its R&D is extensively working on unique and novel formulations particularly in different therapeutic segments. The company has already applied five unique different formulations for patent; and applied for PCT countries for its patent right. The formulationn has gone for PCT already introduced in domestic market and accepted by medical fraternity very well.

Apart from RTFit, other patent applied formulations will be available shortly, said Mr Zota. Presently, Zota has 1850 different formulations with different dosages form; and has large and well managed distribution network. For export purpose, the manufacture facility is based at special economic zone at Surat, as per US FDA requirement.