Background
Antiulcerative agents are one of the most commonly prescribed drugs in Korea and worldwide. This study aimed to review the drug utilization pattern of antiulcerative agents for the elderly people in Korea.

Method
The study population were geriatric inpatients of community hospitals between 1993-1994, aged 65 years or over, beneficiaries of the Korea Medical Insurance Corporation(KMIC) and residing in Pusan city. The information on the drug exposure was collected from the claims data of hospital where the cohort members received medical care between 1993 and 1994. The information included personal identifier, age, gender, diagnosis for prescribing , dosage, data of prescription and name of medical institutions where the study population were prescribed.

Results
The number of patients prescribed antiulcerative agentsbetween 1994 and 1994 was 1,051(64.9%) male and 1,724(65.5%) female. Antacid and composite agents were most frequently prescribed antiulcerative agent(70.8%), and the second most frequently prescibed antiulcerative agent was H2 antagonist(16.0%). The antiulcerative indicated diagnosis categorized in ICD-9 in whom antiulcerative agents were prescribed at least once during any of inpatient period was only 29.6% for all antiulcerative agents.

Discussion
The study result could be used as a fundamental data for further drug utilization review for antiulcerative agents.

[PF1-4] [10/19/2001 (Fri) 14:00 ~ 17:00 / Hall D]

Effect of Joins, a New Herbal Anti-Arthritic Agent, in Patients with Osteoarthritis of the Knee: a Double-Blind Placebo Controlled Phase 2 Study

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Joins (SKI 306X) is a purified extract from a mixture of three oriental herbal medicines (*Clematis mandshurica, Trichosanthes kirilowii* and *Prunella vulgaris*) that have been widely used for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as lymphadenitis and arthritis in far East Asia.
A double-blind, controlled phase 2 study of Joins was performed in patients with osteoarthritis (OA) to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Joins with placebo in 96 patients with classical osteoarthritis of the knee. Patients were randomized to four treatment groups: placebo, 200 mg, 400 mg and 600 mg of Joins *t.i.d.*. Clinical efficacy and safety were evaluated for 4 weeks continuous treatment. Joins demonstrated its clinical efficacy, as assessed by 100mm visual analogue scale (VAS), Lequesne index and patients' and investigators' opinion of the therapeutic effect compared with placebo. ($p<0.01$) Result from this study indicated that Joins had a similar good efficacy profile when administered 200, 400 and 600 mg. No significant adverse events were observed in patients treated with Joins. Considering the pharmaco-economical aspect of Joins, the dosage of 200 mg *t.i.d.* will be most suitable. This study demonstrated that Joins, a new herbal anti-arthritic agent provided clinical efficacy in patients with osteoarthritis.

[PF1-5] [10/19/2001 (Fri) 14:00 ~ 17:00 / Hall D]

Randomized Double-blind trial of the Efficacy and Safety of Joins, a New Herbal Anti-Arthritic Agent vs. Diclofenac in Patients with Osteoarthritis of the Knee

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