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## Vioxx Timeline

**Key events in the saga of Vioxx, once a blockbuster painkiller. Its maker, Merck, faced lawsuits from 47,000 people and for years said it would fight them individually, but now has agreed to pay \$4.85 billion to settle.**

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### 2007

**Nov. 9:**<sup>1</sup> Merck agrees to pay about \$4.85 billion to settle a significant portion of the claims.

**Oct. 5:** A jury rejects a claim that Merck was liable for Florida plaintiff's heart attack.

**Sept. 17:**<sup>2</sup> New York state and New York City jointly sue Merck for allegedly concealing safety information.

**Sept. 6:**<sup>3</sup> New Jersey's high court rules that health insurers' lawsuits can't be consolidated into a class-action suit.

**June 6:**<sup>4</sup> A federal judge slashes a \$51 million Vioxx ruling to \$1.6 million or the option of a new trial.

**March 12:**<sup>5</sup> A New Jersey jury awards \$47.5 million to an Idaho man in a retrial.

**Jan 19:**<sup>6</sup> Calif. judge declares a mistrial in two Vioxx cases.

**Jan 16:**<sup>7</sup> New Jersey court revives class-action lawsuit.

### 2006

**Dec. 23:**<sup>8</sup> Merck loses bid to reverse Texas ruling.

**Sept. 26:**<sup>9</sup> Jury clears Merck in third federal case.

**Sept. 18:**<sup>10</sup> Merck appeals first Vioxx verdict, issued by a Texas jury in 2005.

**Sept. 6:**<sup>11</sup> An outside investigation ordered by Merck's board largely exonerates the company's management of any wrongdoing over Vioxx.

**Aug. 30:**<sup>12</sup> Federal judge rules that jury's \$51 million award was "grossly excessive." Orders a new trial on damages.

**Aug. 17:**<sup>13</sup> Federal jury finds Merck negligent. Plaintiff awarded \$51 million. A N.J. judge throws out a Merck victory in a trial from November.

**Aug. 2:**<sup>14</sup> Jury clears Merck in California case.


**July 13:**<sup>15</sup> N.J. jury says Merck not liable for patient's heart attack.

**June 26:**<sup>16</sup> New England Journal of Medicine publishes correction to report critical of Vioxx.

**May 17:**<sup>17</sup> Merck study indicates Vioxx risk starts earlier than expected.

**April 21:**<sup>18</sup> Merck found liable in another Texas case.

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**April 5:**<sup>19</sup> N.J. jury finds Merck liable in one case, not liable in a second.

**Feb. 18:**<sup>20</sup> Merck wins retrial after mistrial in Dec. 2005 case.

## 2005

**Dec. 12:**<sup>21</sup> First federal case ends in a mistrial.

**Nov. 3:**<sup>22</sup> N.J. jury finds Merck not liable for patient's heart attack.

**Aug. 19:**<sup>23</sup> Merck found liable for patient's death in Texas.

**May 5:**<sup>24</sup> CEO Ray Gilmartin steps down.

## 2004

**November:**<sup>25</sup> Justice Dept., SEC, Senate launch investigations.

**Sept. 30:**<sup>26</sup> Merck withdraws Vioxx world-wide.

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