

Oregon's Drug Review:

Evidence on NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs for Arthritis and Pain)

NSAIDs relieve pain and swelling of arthritis. These drugs also treat lower back pain, minor injuries, and soft tissue rheumatism. NSAIDs block enzymes involved in pain and inflammation. These drugs can cause bleeding ulcers. NSAIDs can also cause high blood pressure, puffiness of feet and lower legs, and kidney disease.

Which Drugs Were Included In This Review?

This review looked at the following oral NSAIDs when used by adults for constant pain.

(It did not cover aspirin. It did not include any NSAID in fixed combination with other drugs.)

<p><u>NSAIDs, Non-Selective</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diclofenac (Catalfam, Voltaren, Voltaren XR) • ibuprofen Advil (Motrin) • ketoprofen (Actron, Orudis, Orudis KT, Oruvail) • naproxen (Aleve, Anaprox, Naprelan, Naprosyn) • oxaprozin (Daypro, Daypro Alta) • piroxicam (Feldene) • sulindac (Clinoril) • many other NSAIDs 	<p><u>NSAIDs, COX-2 Preferential</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • etodolac (Lodine, Lodine XL) • meloxicam (Mobic) • nabumetone (Relfen) • salsalate (Salflex, Amigesic, Disalcid) <p><u>NSAIDs, COX-2 Selective</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • celecoxib (Celebrex) <p><i>Vioxx and Bextra removed from market as they increase risk of heart disease and a rare skin condition.</i></p>
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What Do These Drugs Have In Common?

- All of these drugs treat arthritis effectively.
- People with recent bleeding ulcers risk re-bleeding when using aspirin or any type of NSAID.
- All NSAIDs can increase blood pressure and cause kidney damage.

What Are the Key Differences Among These Drugs?

- Rofecoxib is less apt to cause gastro-intestinal (G-I) bleeding. However, it may increase risk of serious heart disease.
- Celicoxib is less apt to cause adverse G-I effects. This benefit disappears when taking aspirin.

Ask Your Health Care Practitioner During Your Next Visit:

- Am I taking the most effective drug for my condition?
- Are alternative drugs available that are equally effective?
- Are alternative drugs available that are effective, but less costly?
- Is there a generic available for my brand name drug?
- Will this drug interact with other medications I take?