

Summary

- NSAIDS can help reduce pain and swelling because they reduce inflammation
- These medications must be taken as prescribed and most should be taken with food unless approved by your physician.
- Do not take aspirin, aspirin products or drink alcohol when taking NSAIDS.
- You may need to have blood work done to check for side effects if you take these medications longer than three or four months.
- NSAIDS can cost a lot. Check with several pharmacies for the cost of your prescription. Consider using the generic type which might decrease your cost. Notify your physician if the cost of this medication is keeping you from taking these pills.
- Contact your physician if you have any question or notice any side effects.
- It may take a week or more before you begin to feel better. Several weeks may pass before you feel the full effects. This is because it needs time to reach an effective level in your blood stream.
- Side effects may occur with these medications. If you notice any side effects, report them to your doctor.

Aspirin Products

Alka-Seltzer
Anacin
Arthritis Pain Formula
Ascriptin
Aspirin (ASA)
Azdone
Bufferin
Damason-P
Easprin
Ecotrin
Empirin
Equagesic
Excedrin
Four Way Cold Tabs
Fiorinal
Gelpirin
Meprobamate/ASA
Methocarbamol/ASA
Norgesic
Norgesic Forte
Orphengesic
Oxycodone w/ ASA
Percodan
Robaxisol
Supac
Synalgos-DC
Zorprin

NSAIDS (Generic Names)

Celecoxib
Diclofenac
Diflunisal
Etodolac
Fenoprofen
Flurbiprofen
Ibuprofen
Indomethacin
Keoprofen
Meclofenamic Acid
Nabumetone
Naproxen
Oxaprozin
Piroxicam
Rofecoxib
Salsalate
Sulindac
Valdecoxib

NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAID'S)



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Introduction

A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) has been prescribed to help relieve your pain and inflammation (swelling). NSAIDs work by decreasing the production of naturally occurring substances (prostaglandins) widely distributed throughout the body tissues which play a role in inflammation, pain sensation, fever, and blood platelet function. By decreasing the amount of these substances, pain and swelling can be decreased.

Uses and Benefits

NSAIDs are most effective when taken as prescribed. NSAIDs may not relieve all of your pain. NSAIDs are often used along with other treatments such as: physical therapy, a change in your activities, preventative exercises, and occasionally surgery.

How to Take NSAIDS

It is important to take NSAIDS as prescribed. Most NSAIDS should be taken with food to decrease your side effects.

Make sure that you:

- Never take more than the prescribed amount of medication.
- Never take two different NSAIDS at the same time.
- Never take NSAIDS along with aspirin, aspirin products or alcohol (this may increase the incidence of side effects). See the list of aspirin containing products on the back of this pamphlet.

Side Effects

Side effects can occur with any medication. Side effects of NSAIDS are uncommon but may occur.

Gastro-Intestinal (Stomach) Side Effects

These are the most common side effects of NSAIDS. Symptoms include upset stomach (heartburn), diarrhea, constipation, and nausea. Bleeding ulcers can occur with long term use of NSAIDS.

Renal (Kidney) Side Effects

NSAIDS can effect the kidney, especially if there are already problem with the kidneys. People more likely to have kidney problems from NSAIDS include: those with hear failure, liver damage, kidney disease or lupus. Side effects on the kidneys are detected by a blood test that should be done after taking these medications for three to four months.

Liver Side Effects

Elevation of liver enzymes can occur with the use of NSAIDS. Serious outcomes are unusual. Blood test can be done to watch for the change in liver enzymes. Risk Factors for side effects of the liver include: advanced age, kidney problems, use of a lot of medication, and conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus.

If you notice any unusual symptoms after you have been started on NSAID, report this to your physician.

Other Side Effects

Other side effects that have been reported with the use of NSAIDS include: headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, itching, skin rash, sweating, ringing in the ears, edema (swelling), and many other less common symptoms. About two people out of one hundred have side effects. However, you should tell your physician if you notice any symptoms.

Some of the more common NSAIDS are:

Advil	Medipren
Aleve	Mono-Gesic
Anaprox	Mobic
Ansaid	Motrin
Arthrotec	Nalfon
Butazolidin	Naprelan
Celebrex	Naprosyn
Clinoril	Nuprin
Daypro	Orudis
Disalcid	Oruvail
Dolobid	Ponstel
Feldene	Relafen
Ibuprofen	Rufen
Indocin	Salflex
Lodine	Tolectiv Toradol
Meclomen	Voltaren