NSAIDs

by the Numbers

About NSAIDs

Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) are used to treat a variety of acute and chronic pain conditions, including:
- sprains and strains
- flares of back pain
- headaches
- osteoarthritis
- rheumatoid arthritis

NSAID prescriptions increased by

APPROXIMATELY

15%

from 2009 to 2013²

70 million

visits are made to physicians for pain-related ailments each year³

In the U.S.

APPROXIMATELY

115 million

NSAID prescriptions were written in 2013²

Women make up the majority of NSAID usage

ABOUT

55%

of NSAIDs prescribed in 2013 were to women⁴

MORE THAN

59%

of NSAIDs prescribed in 2013 were for patients aged 20-59 years⁵

Risks Associated with NSAID Use

The risk of serious adverse events associated with NSAIDs is higher among patients receiving higher doses⁷. Risks include:
- myocardial infarction (heart attack)
- stroke
- gastrointestinal ulcers
- gastrointestinal bleeds⁸
- acute renal failure⁹

Serious gastrointestinal complications related to NSAID use account for as many as

16,500 DEATHS¹⁰

AND

103,000 HOSPITALIZATIONS per year in the U.S.¹¹

¹ American College of Rheumatology. NSAIDs: Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs. 2012.
² IMS National Prescription Audit, Total Prescriptions, 2009 - 2013.
⁴ IMS NDTI Audit, 2009 - 2013 Gender.
⁵ IMS NDTI Audit, 2009 - 2013 Age.
⁶ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Public Health Advisory - FDA Announces Important Changes and Additional Warnings for COX-2 Selective and Non-Selective Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs).