

# Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

## How to use this medication

### What are they?



NSAIDs are medications used to treat different types of pain and arthritis. Available NSAIDs include: ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn), diclofenac (Voltaren, Arthrotec), indomethacin (Indocid), ketorolac (Toradol), meloxicam (Mobicox), nabumetone (Relafen), piroxicam (Feldene), tiaprofenic acid (Surgam), & sulindac (Clinoril)

### Take them once to four times a day



Each NSAID is taken differently. Your doctor will tell you how to take your medicine.

## What you need to do

### Watch your stomach



NSAIDs can irritate the stomach. Let your doctor know if:

- You have any stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting
- You have heartburn or indigestion
- You notice black or bloody stools
- You are vomiting blood or "coffee ground" material

### Do not take if you have an allergy to ASA



Don't take NSAIDs if you have an allergy to aspirin or other NSAIDs.

### Don't take with NSAIDs or blood thinners



Don't take NSAIDs with other NSAIDs. This can increase the risk of stomach problems. Be careful taking NSAIDs with blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin).

## Side effects & important facts

### Kidney problems



You should be careful using NSAIDs if you have kidney problems. Please talk to your doctor.

### Blood pressure



NSAIDs can cause an increase in your blood pressure. Your doctor will monitor this. Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure.

### Leg swelling



NSAIDs can cause swelling of the legs. It can also worsen a condition called congestive heart failure (CHF). Tell your doctor if you have CHF or if you develop leg swelling.

### Heart attack & stroke



Patients who have had a recent heart attack or stroke or experienced serious chest pain from heart disease should not take NSAIDs.

### Headache



NSAIDs can rarely cause a headache or dizziness.

### Skin rash



NSAIDs can rarely cause an allergic rash. Stop the medicine and let your doctor know if you develop a rash, hives, or blisters.

### Pregnancy & breastfeeding



Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

## When should I call my doctor

### Please call if you need to stop

- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine



### Other reasons to call your doctor:



Rash



Severe leg swelling



Shortness of breath or chest pain



Allergic reaction



Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, black or bloody stools

## Other important information

### Stopping NSAIDs



You can simply stop taking NSAIDs.