

A Cardiologists' Perspective: NSAID's, including COX-2 inhibitors, are not safe

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The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are widely used for the symptomatic control of musculo-skeletal pain and arthritis. However recent reports have suggested that there is an increased risk of cardio-vascular events for patients receiving NSAIDs. As a consequence of these reports, regulatory authorities have either withdrawn or posted warnings on the use of NSAIDs, especially the selective COX-2 inhibitors.

This debate will focus on the strength of evidence that shows NSAIDs increase CV risk. Should patients with heart disease be advised not to take NSAIDs. Is the increased CV risk a class effect of all NSAIDs. Are the benefits of NSAIDs worth the CV risk?