

## What do I need to know about NSAIDs?

(say “EN-sedz”)

Medicine is one of the tools your doctor has to treat your lupus. Taking medicine as your doctor suggests will improve your lupus. And it may prevent more serious health problems in the future. If you don't take your medicines correctly, you may be putting your health, and perhaps your life, at risk.

### Why am I taking this medicine?

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) are medicines that relieve or reduce pain. NSAIDs also help to reduce swelling in your joints and other body parts so you feel better.

The most popular examples of this group of medicines are aspirin and ibuprofen. Your doctor may want you to take NSAIDs even when you're taking other lupus medicines.

### How do I take this medicine?

- Your doctor wants you to take \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_mg tablets.
- Take \_\_\_\_\_tablets by mouth \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) per day.
- Take this medicine with food. (Take the medicine just before, right after, or during a meal. Or you can take the medicine with a snack, such as a few crackers.)

### How fast does it work?

NSAIDs begin to provide relief of swelling and pain usually within a few days. As the swelling decreases, the pain decreases even more.

### I'm feeling better. Can I stop taking my medicine?

No. Even if you're feeling better, keep taking your medicine. Do not stop unless your doctor says it's O.K. to stop.

**IMPORTANT**

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- Rapid heart beat
- Trouble swallowing
- Chest pain
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Rash
- Itching
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Fluid retention (too much water in the body, causing swelling of the legs, feet, hands, face or other body parts)
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding
- Ringing or noises in the ear (tinnitus)

**Are there any side effects?**

Side effects are unplanned symptoms or feelings you have when taking a medicine. Some side effects happen just when you start taking a medicine. Some happen only once in a while.

Most side effects are not serious and go away on their own. Others can be more bothersome and even serious. Keep track of side effects. **Tell your doctor right away about any unexpected signs or changes in the way you feel.**

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this medicine?**

NSAIDs sometimes react in the body with certain other medicines, sometimes to cause harmful effects. For example, you should not take NSAIDs at the same time as anti-clotting drugs, such as warfarin.

NSAIDs can worsen other medical problems, like high blood pressure, kidney or liver disease.

- Tell your doctor about all medicines you use. This includes prescriptions, medicines you buy off the shelf at the store, vitamins, and herbal products. Do not start a new medicine without telling your doctor.
- Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant or thinking of getting pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.
- Avoid taking any other medicine that contains NSAIDs (like ibuprofen or aspirin).



Keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Never share your medicines with others. Use this medicine only for the reason your doctor said to.

**What follow-up do I need?**

You will have regular blood work. It is important to have the blood work done. This is how your doctor checks for side effects from the medicine.

**What's the doctor's phone number? (585) 486-0901**

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