

MEDIA RELEASE

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PAGB response to study on the use of prescribed NSAIDs and Atrial Fibrillation

John Smith, PAGB Chief Executive, comments: “This study* looks at the use of prescription medicines and did not include NSAIDs available over-the-counter (OTC), which are typically used in smaller doses and for a shorter duration.

“It is worth noting that a separate review in the Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics^[1], which did include OTC NSAID use, concluded that ‘there is little cardiovascular risk when over-the-counter formulations of these agents are used as directed in their labels.’

“People taking OTC NSAIDs should not be concerned by this research if they are taking the medicine occasionally for short periods and according to the on-pack instructions. NSAIDs are an appropriately safe way to manage painful symptoms and they provide relief to millions of people around the world and allow them to get on with their life. Anyone who has concerns about taking a medicine should speak to a pharmacist for advice.”

**A study published in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology has suggested that prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), used by patients in Taiwan led to an increased risk of atrial fibrillation (abnormal heart rhythm).*

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Notes to editors:

PAGB (Proprietary Association of Great Britain) is the UK trade association representing manufacturers of branded over-the-counter medicines, self care medical devices and food supplements.

For further information, please contact Pegasus: Lauren Walker or Amy Skinner on 01273 712000 / PAGB@thisispegasus.co.uk

^[1] White WB et al. *Cardiorenal Safety of OTC Analgesics*. [J Cardiovasc Pharmacol Ther](#). 2018 Mar;23(2):103-118. doi: 10.1177/1074248417751070.