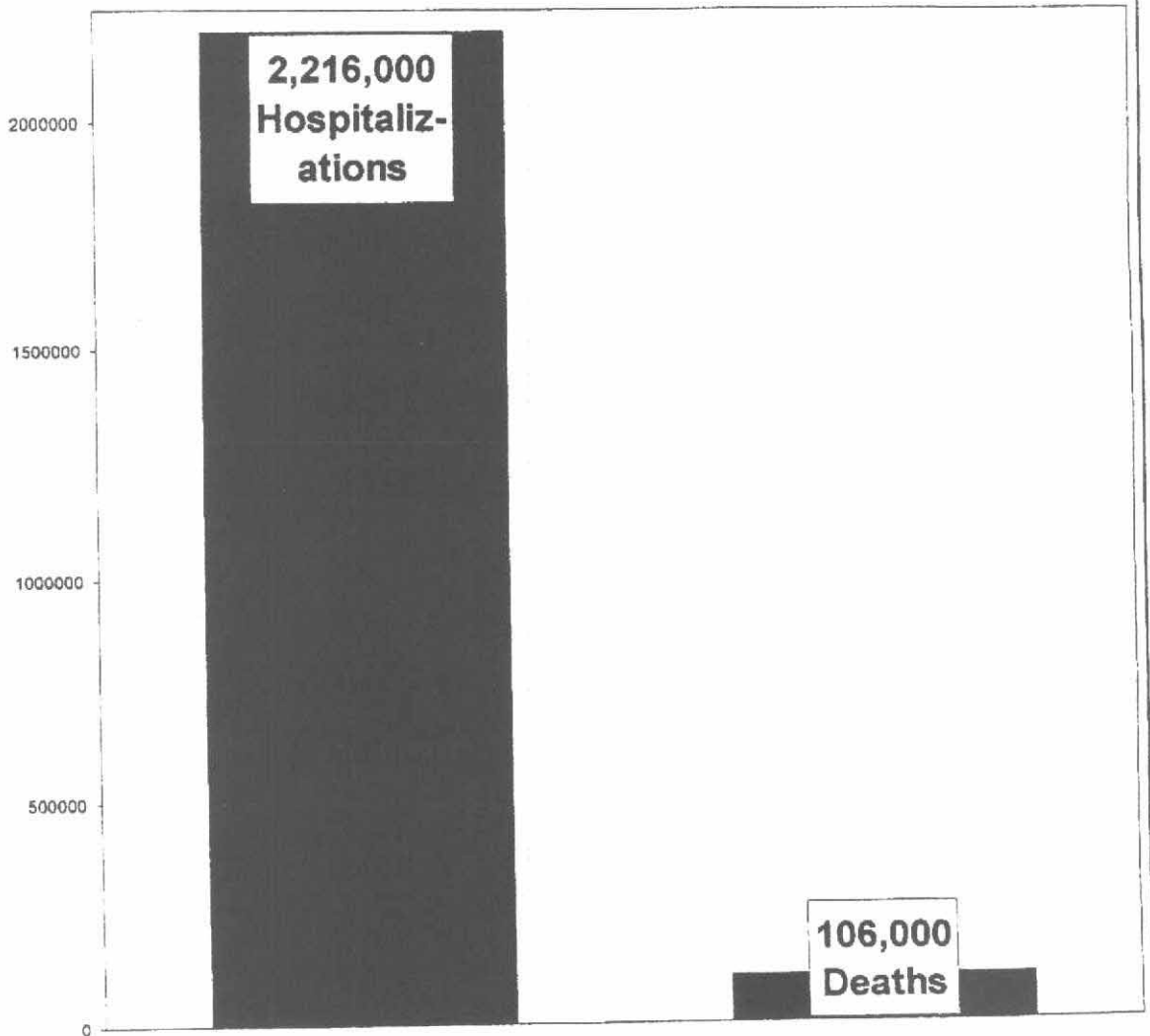


How Safe Is The Medication You're Taking?

Number Of Americans Hospitalized Or Killed Each Year From Side Effects Of Their Medications



Data taken from:

Incidence of adverse drug reactions in hospitalized patients: a meta-analysis of prospective studies.

Lazarou J, Pomeranz BH, Corey PN. JAMA 1998 Apr 15;279(15):1200-5
Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

How Safe Is The Medication You're Taking?

Each year more than 2,000,000 Americans are hospitalized and 106,000 are killed from medication side effects.

– Journal of the American Medical Association (April 15, 1998)

“Overall, 51% of approved drugs have serious adverse effects not detected prior to [FDA] approval.”

– Bruce Psaty, M.D. (May 20, 1998)

There has been an almost 3-fold increase in deaths due to medication errors in the U.S. since 1983.

“There is a growing concern about the quality and continuity of physician-patient relationships; in the case of medication errors, this concern may be justified.”

– The Lancet (February 28, 1998)

Up to 30% of emergency room visits are due to medication problems, with the majority due to adverse drug reactions.

– The Annals of Pharmacotherapy (December 1999)

“Recent estimates suggest that costs of medication-related [injuries] exceed \$76 billion a year...”

– Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association (May/June 1999)

Adverse drug reactions “represent the fourth to sixth leading cause of death.”

– Southern Medical Journal (April 2001)

How Safe Are NSAIDs? (aspirin, ibuprofen, etc.)

Each year, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) cause “up to 200,000 hospitalizations and 20,000 deaths.”

– Frank Hamilton, M.D. (July 27, 1998)

Medical treatment for NSAID side-effects “comprise 31-40% of the total cost of care for arthritis patients.”

– *The American Journal of Medicine* (December 13, 1999)

Using the newest NSAIDs (Vioxx and Celebrex) “may lead to increased cardiovascular thrombotic events.”

While these new NSAIDs do appear to cause less stomach and intestinal damage than older NSAIDs, people who use them may more than double their risk of suffering a heart attack.

– *Journal of the American Medical Association* (August 22/29, 2001)

Stomach and/or intestinal damage “can be found in approximately two of three NSAID users....”

– Denis McCarthy, M.D. (December 13, 1999)

NSAID-related deaths are the “15th most common cause of death in the United States.”

The toxic effects of NSAIDs “remain largely a ‘silent epidemic,’ with many physicians and most patients unaware of the magnitude of the problem.”

– *New England Journal of Medicine* (June 17, 1999)

Medical costs to treat the side-effects of NSAIDs are “estimated to be at least \$2 billion/yr in the United States.”

– *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* (August 2000)