



# Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) Safety Communication

30/3/2020

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## **SFDA's Advice on the Use of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in Patients with COVID-19:**

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) is aware of the reports cycling in the news and social media claiming that the use of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen, could worsen coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The SFDA would like to clarify that there is currently no scientific evidence establishing an association between the use of NSAIDs and worsening of COVID-19. SFDA is monitoring the situation closely and will review any new information that becomes available on this issue. The product information of many NSAIDs in Saudi Arabia already contains a statement that their anti-inflammatory effects may hide the symptoms of a worsening infection.

While treating fever or pain in patients with COVID-19, all treatment option should be considered, including paracetamol and NSAIDs. Individual patient factors, benefits and risks of each medication, and the local guidelines should be taken into consideration when choosing the appropriate treatment.

There is currently no apparent reason for interrupting treatment by ibuprofen or other NSAIDs, especially for chronic diseases. The SFDA advises patients who have prescriptions containing NSAIDs to continue taking them according to the prescription and do not to stop using them until consulting their physician or pharmacist. Please be advised that these medicines are used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible period. If you need to use these medicines for a long time make sure you consult your doctor and see he/she regularly.

SFDA always recommends to follow the instructions in the patient information leaflet that available in the package of the medicinal product and warns against exceeding the dose of the medicine that mentioned in the leaflet.

To look at all pharmaceutical products that are marketed in Saudi Arabia, you can simply do that by browsing SFDA [website](#) or by using [Tameni app](#).

## **The SFDA urges healthcare professionals and patients to report Adverse Drug Events (side effects) via any of the following contact information:**

**National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC)**  
**Saudi Food and Drug Authority - Drug sector**  
4904 Northern ring branch rd.- Hitteen District  
Riyadh 13513 - 7148  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Reporting hotline: 19999  
Email: [npc.drug@sfd.gov.sa](mailto:npc.drug@sfd.gov.sa)  
Webpage: <http://ade.sfd.gov.sa>  
Fax: +966112057662