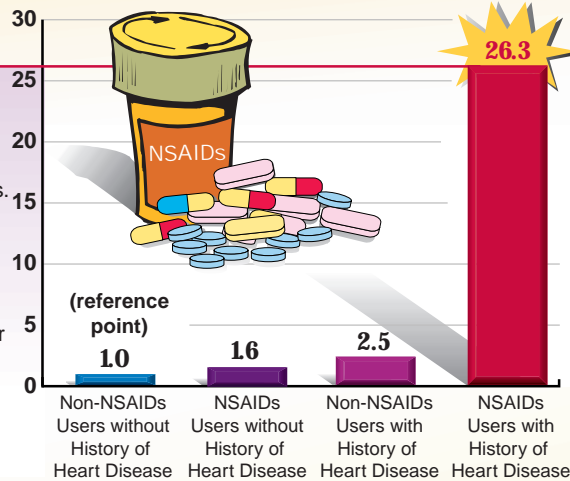


## NSAIDs Bad for Older Hearts

A recent study<sup>1</sup> showed the use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) dramatically increased the likelihood of congestive heart failure in elderly patients:

Every year in the U.S., an estimated 7,600 people (mostly the elderly) die from the effects of NSAIDs. Gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation account for one death for every 9,210 prescriptions; another 76,000 end up in the hospital (one hospitalization for every 921 prescriptions).<sup>2</sup>



1. Page J, Henry D. Consumption of NSAIDs and the development of congestive heart failure in elderly patients. *Arch Intern Med* 2000;160:777-784.

2. Tamblyn R, Berkson L, Dauphinee WD, et al. Unnecessary prescribing of NSAIDs and the management of NSAID-related gastropathy in medical practice. *Ann Intern Med* 1997;127:429-438.