

FDA: Painkillers up risk of heart attack, stroke

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New Delhi: Painkillers can be lethal, especially in case of those suffering from diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and kidney diseases. Often easily available over the counter in India, painkillers and fever-reducing drugs increase the chance of a heart attack or

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stroke either of which can lead to death, the US drug regulator has warned.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), a class with analgesic (painkilling) and antipyretic (fever-reducing) effects, pose higher risk of heart attack, which can

POISON PILLS

► FDA says painkillers and fever-reducing medicines increase risk of heart attack and stroke even in those who **don't suffer from diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol or kidney diseases**

► Wants warnings on drug labels to indicate **'increased risk of heart failure'**

occur as early as the first week of using these medicines. The risk increases with longer use or higher doses, the US Food and Drug Administration has said, basing its findings on a review over the past 10 years.

Regulatory