

## NSAIDs / COX-2 Inhibitors

NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are among the most commonly prescribed and widely used arthritis drugs.

### *Traditional NSAIDs include:*

- [Ansaid](#) (flurbiprofen)
- [Arthrotec](#) (diclofenac/misoprostol)
- [Cataflam](#) (diclofenac potassium)
- [Clinoril](#) (sulindac)
- [Daypro](#) (oxaprozin)
- [Dolobid](#) (diflunisal)
- [Feldene](#) (piroxicam)
- [Ibuprofen](#) (brand Motrin, Advil)
- [Indocin](#) (indomethacin)
- [Ketoprofen](#) (brand Orudis, Oruvail)
- [Lodine](#) (etodolac)
- [Meclomen](#) (meclofenamate)
- [Mobic](#) (meloxicam)
- [Nalfon](#) (fenoprofen)
- [Naproxen](#) (brand Naprosyn, Aleve)
- [Ponstel](#) (mefanamic acid)
- [Relafen](#) (nabumetone)
- [Tolectin](#) (tolmetin)
- [Vimovo](#) (naproxen esomeprazole)
- [Voltaren](#) (diclofenac sodium)

### *COX-2 Inhibitors include:*

- [Celebrex](#) (celecoxib)

## DMARDs

DMARDs (Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs) have also been labeled "slow-acting anti-rheumatic drugs" (because they take weeks or months to work) and "second-line agents".

However, research has shown the effectiveness of DMARDs in the treatment of [rheumatoid arthritis](#), [psoriatic arthritis](#), and [ankylosing spondylitis](#) and the importance of early, aggressive treatment with these drugs.

For some, these drugs can stop disease progression and halt joint damage.

***DMARDs include:***

- [Arava](#) (leflunomide)
- [Auranofin](#) (brand Ridaura, Oral Gold)
- [Azulfidine](#) (sulfasalazine)
- [Mycophenolate](#) (brand CellCept)
- [Myochrysine](#) (Injectable Gold)
- [Cyclosporine](#) (brand Neoral, Sandimmune)
- [Cytosan](#) (cyclophosphamide)
- [Imuran](#) (azathioprine)
- [Leukeran](#) (chlorambucil)
- [Methotrexate](#) (brand Rheumatrex, Trexall)
- [Minocin](#) (minocycline)
- [Penicillamine](#) (brand Cuprimine, Depen)
- [Plaquenil](#) (hydroxychloroquine)

**Corticosteroids (Steroids)**

[Corticosteroids](#) or glucocorticoids, often called "steroids", are potent drugs which can reduce swelling and inflammation quickly.

These drugs are closely related to cortisol, a hormone produced on the cortex of the adrenal glands.

They are prescribed in widely varying doses depending on the condition and goal of treatment.

Used to control inflammation of the joints and organs in diseases such as [rheumatoid arthritis](#), [lupus](#), [polymyalgia rheumatica](#), [vasculitis](#), it has been determined that the potential for serious side effects increases at high doses or with longterm use.

Doctors can prescribe short-term, high-dose intravenous steroids in some situations, or give [shots or injections](#) with drugs such as [Triamcinolone \(Kenalog\)](#) locally into a specific joint for relief.

***Corticosteroids include:***

- [Betamethasone](#) (brand Celestone)

- [Cortisone](#) (brand Cortone)
- [Dexamethasone](#) (brand Decadron)
- [Hydrocortisone](#) (brand Cortef)
- [Methylprednisolone](#) (brand Medrol)
- [Prednisolone](#) (brand Prelone)
- [Prednisone](#) (brand Deltasone)

## **Analgesics (Pain Medications)**

[Analgesics](#) are pain relieving drugs.

Unlike NSAIDs, analgesics do not relieve inflammation.

[Acetaminophen](#) (Tylenol) is the most commonly used analgesic.

Narcotic analgesic drugs can also be prescribed for more severe pain.

## **SUPARTZ INJECTIONS:**

**Definition:** [Supartz](#) is a solution of highly purified sodium hyaluronate. Supartz is one of the hyaluronates used in [viscosupplementation](#).

Supartz is injected directly into the knee joint to restore the cushioning and lubricating properties of normal joint fluid.

The injections are approved for the treatment of [osteoarthritis](#) of the [knee](#) in those who have failed to respond to simple painkillers, [exercise](#) or [physical therapy](#).

Use for other joints is being investigated.

## **Fast Facts About Supartz Injections:**

- Viscosupplementation has been studied for osteoarthritis treatment since the 1970s.
- Supartz was FDA approved on 01/24/01.
- Supartz injections are typically given once a week for 5 weeks.
- Supartz was the world's first hyaluronan joint fluid therapy, first introduced in Japan in 1987.
- Supartz is considered a treatment of therapy, not a drug.

