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Some of the most commonly prescribed painkillers, including ibuprofen, have been linked to an increased risk of heart failure. Researchers have found that for a fortnight after taking anti inflammatory drugs, there was nineteen per cent more of a chance of being admitted to hospital with heart problems. Here's our Health Correspondent, James Gallagher. Many of us take drugs like ibuprofen or naproxen to ease joint or muscle pain. They're effective painkillers but a study in the British Medical Journal shows they also increase the risk of heart failure. Researchers investigated 27 non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs being taken by 10 million people in Europe. Overall, they increased the risk of being taken to hospital with heart failure by 19%. But the risk was doubled in patients taking very high doses. Because they are so widely available and commonly used, it could have a very high public health impact. So the regulatory authorities need to consider that maybe we should have more restrictions on selling those drugs. All drugs can cause side effects but many people seem concerned by the reports that painkillers could lead to heart problems. I'm surprised to read that. I'll probably take it less now. When you have hangovers, it's taken for everything at the moment. I have to weigh up the consequences, and I do take them but I know it is not good. A lot of us take these drugs. More than 14 million prescriptions are handed out each year and many of us buy them over the counter as well. So how worried should we be? Many experts say the dangers are being over exaggerated, and that the findings have little relevance to most healthy people. There is no need to panic. Younger patients occasionally take these drugs over a short courses and there is no evidence this is a problem. Older patients generally get these drugs prescribed by their doctor and they are being monitored closely. If people have concerns, they should speak to their GP

or their pharmacist. Painkillers are an everyday part of most people's lives and no one is suggesting we should stop using them but the British Heart Foundation advises taking the lowest dose for the shortest possible time. James Gallacher, BBC News. Houses put up for sale