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Common painkillers used by millions of people in the UK are linked to an increased risk of heart failure. That's according to new research published in the British Medical Journal this morning which suggests drugs such as ibuprofen increase the chance of the condition by 20%. Let's get more from Dr Hilary. I be proven is a really I be proven is a I be proven is I be proven Let's get more from Dr Hilary. I be Ibuprofen is a really common painkiller. We have to get this in perspective. It is alarming on the face of it. Perceptions are issued for this kind of drug for 14.5 million people and you can buy it over the counter. -- Prescriptions. This study looks at people whose average age was 77 and they were using it on prescription, so at high doses over a long period of time.

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This shows that people taking it for 14 days prior to being admitted to hospital have a higher risk of being admitted with heart failure. That is not the same as a heart attack. It is usually a gradual thing. Nevertheless, huge numbers of people are taking it. Should they be worried? Keep it in perspective. If you are a young person, taking something for a temperature or headache or period pain or joint problems short-term, the risk is tiny. If you are elderly and at a higher risk of heart failure anyway because of obesity, abnormal heart rhythm or something else, use it with caution. For the shortest period you can and in the smallest dose. But it is still a very useful drug. Russia says it's ready to continue working with the US to find solutions to the crisis in Syria.