NSAIDS provide limited benefit to those with low back pain

Clinical Question	How effective are Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) compared to placebo and other comparison treatments for acute low back pain (LBP)?
Bottom Line	For people with acute LBP, NSAIDs were found to be slightly better in reducing pain and disability than placebo in the short-term. However, the magnitude of the effect is small and probably not clinically relevant. There was no clear difference between selective COX-2 inhibitor NSAIDs and non-selective NSAIDs or for NSAIDs versus paracetamol in reducing pain in the short-term. In all cases, potential (gastrointestinal) adverse events should be taken into account.
Caveat	Study populations were diverse and often heterogeneous, including a broad range of participants who varied in age and amount of complaints. Both general practitioner (GP) practices and outpatient clinics were used for the source population. There were methodological shortcomings in the trials but by restricting the analysis to low risk trials the result was consistent with the overall finding.
Context	Acute LBP is a common health problem. This affects personal lives, causing activity limitations and work absence, but also brings with it an economic burden, with high socioeconomic costs. NSAIDs are often used in the treatment of LBP, particularly in people with acute LBP.
Cochrane Systematic Review	van der Gaag WH, Roelofs PDDM, Enthoven WTM, van Tulder MW, Koes BW. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for acute low back pain. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD013581. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013581. This review contains 32 trials with a total of 5356 participants.

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Systematic review link:
https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD013581/full#CD013581-sec1-0007