

Table 1. Characteristics of users of traditional NSAIDs and COXIB

	COXIB	Traditional NSAIDs
Prescriptions in Italy between 7/00 and 6/01 (National Health Service)		
DDD/1000 residents per day	8.6	24.5
% of total prescriptions	26.1	73.9
Expenditures (millions of Euros)	3.8	5.9
% of total expenditures	39.4	60.6
Prescriptions in Umbria between 7/00 and 6/01 (National Health Service)		
DDD/1000 residents per day	6.7	19.1
Users	41,833	187,377

Table 2. Characteristics of incident users by type of NSAID prescribed

	COXIB	Traditional NSAIDs
Incident users	22,348	104,869
(% of the Umbrian population)	(2.7)	(12.6)
Median age	68	64
Ratio males: females	0.5	0.7
Incident use among persons who have had a prescription for a gastroprotective drug within the past 6 months (%)	19.8	15.3
Incident use among persons receiving a concomitant prescription for a gastroprotective drug (%)	5.0	5.8
Odds Ratio* (95% CI) for prescription of concomitant gastroprotective drug	0.75 (0.7-0.8)	1
Repeat prescription of an NSAID during the study period (%)	9.2	10.9
Repeat prescription in the same category of NSAID (%)	50.2	90.2

*Adjusted for age, sex, and prior use of gastroprotective drugs