

## Acupuncture vs. Commonly Used Pain Medications (information taken from [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com) in 2006)

Acupuncture	Aspirin	Tylenol (acetaminophen)	Advil/Motrin (ibuprofen)	Celebrex (colecixib)	Vicodin (hydrocodone + acetaminophen)
<p><b>Treats:</b> back pain, neck pain, sciatica, migraine &amp; other headaches, tendinitis, bursitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, menstrual cramps, various other types of inflammation &amp; pain</p>	<p><b>Treats:</b> osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, tendonitis, bursitis, pain &amp; fever</p>	<p><b>Treats:</b> fever, aches &amp; pains, mild arthritis (does not treat underlying inflammation)</p>	<p><b>Treats:</b> mild to moderate pain, inflammation, fever, menstrual cramps</p>	<p><b>Treats:</b> osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, pain</p>	<p><b>Treats:</b> moderate to moderately severe pain</p>
<p><b>Interactions:</b> no known drug interactions</p>	<p><b>Interactions:</b> Warfarin, medications used to treat diabetes</p>	<p><b>Interactions:</b> alcohol, carbamazepine (for epilepsy), isoniazid &amp; Rifampin (for tuberculosis)</p>	<p><b>Interactions:</b> Lithium (bipolar disorder), Gentamicin (antibiotic), Warfarin (blood thinner)</p>	<p><b>Interactions:</b> aspirin and other NSAIDS (increasing risk of stomach ulcers), Diflucan (yeast infections), Lithium, Warfarin, alcohol</p>	<p><b>Interactions:</b> Soma &amp; Flexeril (muscle relaxants), Lorazepam, Atavan, Klonopin, Benadryl, Elavil, Tagamet (for heartburn), Ibuprofen, Warfarin, Lithium</p>
<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> slight bruising, increased pain in affected area for 12 to 24 hours after treatment, relaxation, sense of well-being, increased energy, improved sleep, improved digestive function, improved immune function</p>	<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> Ulcers, abdominal pain, cramping, nausea, gastritis, gastrointestinal bleeding, liver toxicity, ringing in the ears, rash, kidney impairment, vertigo, lightheadedness</p>	<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> liver damage, especially when used with alcohol</p>	<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> rash, ringing in the ears, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, constipation, heartburn, ulcers</p>	<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> headache, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, diarrhea, nausea, gas, insomnia, fainting, kidney failure, heart failure, hypertension, chest pain, ringing in the ears, deafness, stomach and intestinal ulcers, bleeding, blurred vision, anxiety, sensitivity to light, weight gain, water retention, flu-like symptoms, drowsiness and weakness</p>	<p><b>Possible Side Effects:</b> lightheadedness, dizziness, sedation, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, constipation, difficult urination</p>