

Table 5

MORTALITY RATES OF VARIOUS MEDICAL PROCEDURES AND DAILY EVENTS*

SURGERY				Cerebrovascular disease	(Australia) ¹³⁵	
Appendectomies		1:74 ⁵		Males	1954	1:689
Cervical spine surgery		1:145 ⁵			1993	1:1,471
Cholecystectomy		1:51-200 ^{5,116}		Females	1954	1:593
Colon surgery		1:14-50 ⁵			1993	1:1,653
Coronary bypass surgery (up to 21% of patients who experienced an adverse event resulted in a fatal outcome)		1:263 ³⁴			1996 ³⁷	1:1,429
Herniated disc surgery		1:481 ¹¹⁷		Coronary heart disease ('age adjusted') ¹³⁵		
Iatrogenic cardiac arrests		1:1.7 ¹¹⁸		1983	Males	Japan 1:1,873
Iatrogenic oesophageal perforations		1:3.5 ¹¹⁹				Australia 1:366
Lumbar discectomy		0.9:1000 ¹²⁰				Scotland 1:254
Lumbar fusion		1:50-1,400 ¹¹¹			Females	Japan 1:3,247
Lumbar laminectomies		1:204 ⁵				Australia 1:707
Lumbar surgery		1:683 ¹²¹				Scotland 1:511
Lumbar 'procedures'		1:1,430 ¹²²		CHRONIC DISEASES 1993 (Australia)¹³⁶		
Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty				(per population, not mortality rate of cases)		
Intracranial 16.7% mortality		1:6 ¹²³		Coronary heart disease		1:624 ¹³⁶
Sciatic surgery		1:684 ¹²¹		Ischaemic heart disease	1996	1:617 ¹³⁵
Small intestine surgery		1:4.76 ⁵		Chronic obstructive airways disease	1996	1:525(est) ¹³⁵
DRUGS				Stroke		1:1,536 ¹³⁶
Drug reactions		1:230 ¹²⁴		All cancers		1:555 ¹³⁶
Hospital deaths		1:14.9 ¹²⁵		Cancer - upper respiratory	1996	1:704 ¹³⁵
		1:28 ¹²⁴		Melanoma	1996	1:2,833 ¹³⁶
		1:312.5 ¹²⁵		Prostate cancer		1:526 ¹³⁶
		1:67 ¹²⁶		Breast cancer	1996	1:2,177 ¹³⁶
		1:2.86 ¹²⁷		Colorectal cancer	1996	1:2,841 ¹³⁶
		1:1103 ¹²⁸		Incidence rate males	1996	1:7,143 (est.) ¹³⁵
Drug related problems (DRPs) (1/3 'not preventable') ¹²⁹		1:29 ¹²⁹		Incidence rate females	1996	1:7,143 ¹³⁵
Adverse drug reaction (17.2%)		1:5.8 ¹²⁹		Asthma		1:2,256 ¹³⁶
Taking a drug for which there was no valid medical indication		1:5.8 ¹²⁹		Diabetes		1:7,143 ¹³⁶
Non-compliance (50%)		1:2 ¹²⁹		HIV		1:1,770 ¹³⁶
Medication error (out-patients) 1993		1:131 ¹³⁰		RELATIVE RISKS DAILY CIRCUMSTANCES/SPORT/INDUSTRY		
(in-patients) 1993		1:854 ¹³⁰		Motor vehicle accidents	1996	1:9,091 ¹¹¹
Anti-inflammatories		1:63,333*		Lightning strike	Hit	1:200,000 ¹³⁸
HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS						1:600,000 ¹¹¹
Iatrogenic paediatric admissions to intensive care		1:27 ¹³¹		Deaths		1:2,000,000 ¹³⁹
Iatrogenic adult intensive care admissions		1:41 ¹³²		Homicide		1:52,632 ¹³⁶
Hospital iatrogenesis -50,000-100,000 deaths due to pulmonary embolism in hospitalised patients annually in the US ¹³³		1:50 ¹¹⁴		Acting in theatre	Injury	1:2.2 ¹⁴⁰
RADIOLOGY				National workplace fatalities (Australia) ¹⁴¹ (597 deaths per year per no. of employees)		
Nuclear bone scan		1:3,000 ¹³⁴		Forestry and logging		1:1,075
MEDICAL PROCEDURES				Fishing and hunting		1:1,163
Venipuncture		1:25,000 ¹		Mining		1:2,778
Spinal manipulation (see Table 1)				Transport & storage		1:4,348
DISEASES/CONDITIONS				Agriculture		1:5,000
Ischaemic heart disease	162:100,000	1:617 ³⁸		Construction		1:10,000
Cerebrovascular disease	70:100,000	1:1,429 ³⁸		Rugby Union (participants)		1:5,000 ¹³⁹
Cerebrovascular disease ('age adjusted') ¹³⁵				Spinal cord injuries		1:6,250 ¹⁴²
(of population, not mortality rate of cases)					Rugby Union	1:18,868 ¹⁴³
1988					Rugby League	1:55,556 ¹⁴³
Males	USA	1:1,739		Neurological deficits		1:16,667 ¹⁴²
	Australia	1:1,226		Fatalities		1:15,000 ¹³⁹
	Greece	1:751		Boxing fatalities (per contest)		1:10,000 ¹⁴⁴
Females	USA	1:1,984				
	Australia	1:1,355				
	Greece	1:725				

* Estimation is based on 200 deaths each year in Australian population alone—all citizens including those not taking NSAIDs = 200:19,000,000.³⁵ A more recent estimate is based on '10%' of the 4,500 NSAID-related upper gastrointestinal hospital admissions annually—between 200 and 400 deaths *per annum*.¹⁴⁵ Blower estimates that NSAIDs could be responsible for 3,000 deaths in Great Britain¹⁴⁶