



Survey of current National Football League players, conducted September 13, 2016, to January 8, 2017. All survey participants were granted anonymity to speak openly about medical treatment without fear of repercussion from employers or the NFL.

1. Does your team issue Toradol?

Yes — (49)

No — (1)

2. How long have you taken Toradol?

Once — (3)

Weeks — (16)

Months — (8)

Years — (23)

3. When you are assigned Toradol, does your team make you sign a waiver first?

Yes — (17)

No — (33)

4. Which day is best to take Toradol?

Monday — 0

Tuesday — 0

Wednesday — 0

Thursday —

Friday — 0

Saturday — 0

Game Day — (50)

5. When Toradol wears off, what level of pain are you in?

0 (None) — (0)

1 — (0)

2 — (0)

3 — (0)

4 — (1)

5 (Moderate) — (19)

6 — (10)

7 — (7)

8 — (8)

9 — (2)

10 (Severe) — (3)

6. What side effects do you experience after taking Toradol?

Upset stomach — (4)

Vomiting — (1)

Diarrhea/Constipation — (1)

Heartburn — (0)

Headaches/Dizziness — (1)

Sweating — (0)

Ringing in ears — (0)

Joint/muscle pain — (1)

Other (Specify) — (1)

7. How concerned are you that you've done major damage to your body later in life?

Not concerned — (20)

Mildly concerned — (20)

Very concerned — (6)

Gravely concerned — (4)

8. What are you more worried about?

Getting addicted to painkillers — (29)

That I can't smoke weed instead — (18)

Neither — (3)

9. What else can you tell me about Toradol and how it's affected you and other players?

AFC Defensive End:

"It's a hell of a drug when you need it. But at the end of the day, you shouldn't let it consume you and make it your end-all, be-all. I've dealt with injuries and I've dealt with using painkillers—especially through an ACL injury and back surgery. I've had major injuries but they're asking me to play. So at the end of the day, you've got to do what you've got to do. But I've made a point of emphasis, the rest of my career, to not rely on painkillers at all. I won't even take Advil. If I can find a way to heal my body without using those things, it's better for me."

NFC Linebacker:

"Honestly, this may sound naive, but I think [Toradol] is a good thing. It's an effective drug to help guys put themselves back on the field as fast as they can. To me, it's like a flu or an allergy shot."

AFC Offensive Lineman:

"What I discovered early on is that once you got in the game, you were pretty much feeling all right. So all you were doing with Toradol or whatever medication you took was delaying when the pain would kick in. I'd rather just deal with it right away, but that's just the way I am."

AFC Wide Receiver:

"I'd see a bunch of players get injections before games and, surprisingly, a lot of coaches. A lot of them are ex-players with stuff that hurts, and they have to stand on the sideline for four hours. So a lot of coaches take it."

NFC Linebacker:

"All the information on Toradol got me worried to the point that I just stopped cold turkey at the start of one season. I thought it was really going to be hard to play without it, but I learned to do some things to manage. The biggest thing was that I lost 10 pounds the first year, and I've been losing two or three more each year since then. You have to take the stress off your joints."

AFC Offensive Lineman:

"I'd say the administering of painkillers is worse than the administering of Toradol. You can get them a lot more readily, and you have people potentially selling them to other guys who get addicted to them. ... You feel like 'Welcome to the NFL' when you're waiting in line for a shot before the game."

NFC Defensive Player:

"I haven't taken it for a while, but I definitely did it when I saw older guys doing it as a way of getting through the season. I do take ibuprofen now. You see guys take three or four of the 200 milligram ibuprofen before a game, and I'll do that too."

AFC Tight End:

"Guys have pain to deal with. There was Vicodin or ibuprofen to help us feel better with that. But I never preferred to take those simply because those kind of drugs can make you sloppy and kind of sluggish when on a football field you need to be sharp and attentive and alert."

