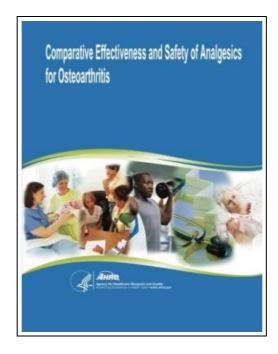
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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Osteoarthritis is a chronic condition involving degeneration of cartilage within the joints. It is the most common form of arthritis and is associated with pain, substantial disability, and reduced quality of life. About 6 percent of U.S. adults aged 30 years or older have symptomatic osteoarthritis of the knee, and 3 percent have symptomatic osteoarthritis of the hip. Osteoarthritis increases with age: the incidence and prevalence increase two- to tenfold from age 30 to 65 and continue to increase after age 65. The total costs for arthritis, including osteoarthritis, may be greater than 2 percent of the gross domestic product, with more than half of these costs related to work loss. Common oral medications for osteoarthritis include non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and acetaminophen. Patients with osteoarthritis also use over-the-counter supplements not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as pharmaceuticals, including glucosamine and chondroitin, as well as topical agents. Opioid medications are also used for selected patients with refractory, chronic pain but are not recommended for first-line treatment of osteoarthritis and therefore not included in this review. Each class of medication or supplement is associated with a unique balance of risks and benefits. In addition, efficacy and safety may vary for individual drugs within a class. Nonpharmacologic interventions (such as physical therapy, weight reduction, and exercise) also help improve pain and functional status in patients with osteoarthritis. A challenge in treating osteoarthritis is deciding which medications will provide the greatest symptom relief with the fewest serious adverse effects. NSAIDs decrease pain, inflammation, and fever by blocking cyclooxygenase (COX) enzymes. Understanding of the pharmacology of NSAIDs continues to evolve, but it is now thought that most NSAIDs block three dif

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