



Figure 2: Market share (in £ million) of supplement in 2009 (NHS, 2011)

The elderly population globally is growing exponentially by time, this signifies that joint problems will as well increase and consequently so will the market for joint health products.

One of the most common supplements used to maintain or prolong the health of the joint is glucosamine. Glucosamine is supported further by the use of drugs to ease the inflammation and pain of deteriorated joints.

Osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, affecting 9.6% of men and 18% of women over the 60 years old worldwide often resulting in significant disability.

The subcommittee on osteoarthritis of the American College of Rheumatology Diagnostic and Therapeutic Criteria Committee defined osteoarthritis as: “A heterogeneous group of conditions that lead to joint symptoms and signs which are associated with defective integrity of articular cartilage, in addition to related changes in the underlying bone at the joint margins” (Altman et al., 1986; Tooley et al., n.d.).