

Medication: Acetaminophen	PDN: 6958.01	Last Updated: January 30 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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ACETAMINOPHEN

1.0 Classification

- Aniline analgesic and antipyretic

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis resulting in analgesia; less effect on cyclooxygenase therefore very little anti-inflammatory properties.

3.0 Indications

- Mild to moderate pain associated with:
 - Headache
 - Hip or extremity trauma
 - Musculoskeletal neck or back pain
- Tympanic temperature above 38° Celsius (in context of infectious etiology)

4.0 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to acetaminophen
- Active vomiting and unable to take oral medications
- Major burns
- History of liver disease

5.0 Precautions

- None

6.0 Route

- May be given PO

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 650-1000 mg PO once (no repeat dose, maximum prehospital dose is 1000 mg if patient has not received previous acetaminophen dose within past 6 hours)

Pediatric

- 15 mg/kg PO once (no repeat dose, maximum prehospital dose is 15 mg/kg if patient has not received dose within past 6 hours)

8.0 Supplied

- 325 mg tablets
- 15 mL bottles of 80 mg/mL

9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Very few side effects when used for recommended reasons

11.0 Special notes

- Acetaminophen and ibuprofen should be administered together for pain management whenever possible
- If pediatric patient is able to swallow tablets and appropriate dose is at least 325 mg, acetaminophen tablets can be administered (titrate dose to closest multiple of 325 mg)
- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

12.0 References

- Pain Management Clinical Practice Guideline
- General Malaise Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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