

Going home after day surgery; Giving your child the medication Acetaminophen



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Acetaminophen is also called Tylenol, or Abenol.

What is different about giving my child Acetaminophen after day surgery?

After day surgery, it is safe to give a child a **slightly** higher dose of Acetaminophen than what is written on the instructions included in the Acetaminophen bottle. This slight increase needs to be calculated so it is safe for your child. It is safe to give your child this slightly higher dose **only** because he or she is recovering at home from surgery performed **today**. This dose is **safe for 2 days**. Your child should not need medicine for pain for more than 2 days. Do not give your child this slightly higher dose if she or he is a baby that is less than one year of age or is a baby or child of any age with liver or kidney disease.

How do I know how much to give?

If you brought a bottle of Acetaminophen with you to the hospital, your nurse will calculate the correct dose. Your nurse will show you how to measure the correct amount to give for the next two days.

If you did not bring a bottle of Acetaminophen with you to the hospital it is important to ask your pharmacist for help. Acetaminophen comes in many strengths and doses and the correct amount needs to be calculated.

Please take this information sheet to the drug store and give it to the pharmacist.

Your pharmacist will then;

- ▶ know what dose has been recommended for your child after her or his day surgery.

- ▶ help you choose the best strength of Acetaminophen.
- ▶ show you the correct amount to measure. The best dose of Acetaminophen to help decrease your child's pain for the first two days after her or his surgery is 90 mg/kg per day.

Information to help you and your pharmacist:

The best dose of Acetaminophen to help decrease your child's pain after her or his surgery is 90 mg/kg per day. This dose has been endorsed by the BC Children's Hospital Pain Service and Anesthesia department.

Your child's weight is: _____ kg

Today (date): _____

- ▶ your child was given a dose of Acetaminophen at BC Children's Hospital at _____ (time)
- ▶ you can give the next dose at _____ (time)
- ▶ give the amount shown to you by the pharmacist which is _____. This is the same as _____ mg or 15 mg/kg.
- ▶ you can give this dose every four hours.

Tomorrow (date): _____

- ▶ give the amount shown to you by the pharmacist which is _____. This is the same as _____ mg or 15 mg/kg.
- ▶ you can give this dose every four hours up to 6 times.

continued...

What else do I need to know to safely give this slightly higher dose to my child for these two days?

- ▶ Only give your child this dose if your child is only taking Acetaminophen for pain.
- ▶ Do not give medications that have Acetaminophen in them such as;
 - cough or cold medicine
 - Tylenol 1s, “Tylenol 2s” or “Tylenol 3s”
- ▶ If you are not sure if you can give another medication to your child, please check with your child’s doctor or your pharmacist.
- ▶ It is safe to give your child this slightly elevated dose only because he or she is recovering at home from surgery performed today. Unless your doctor has told you otherwise, only give the recommended doses of medication on the packaging after the first two days.

When should I not give this amount of Acetaminophen?

- ▶ If your child is a baby less than one year of age .
- ▶ If your child of any age has liver or renal disease.
- ▶ If your child of any age has pain for more than two days.

Contact your child's surgeon or family doctor



Phone: _____

If:

- ▶ This amount of Acetaminophen is not controlling your child’s pain.
- ▶ Your child has pain for more than 2 days,
- ▶ Your child has a fever that does not go away.
- ▶ Your child is not drinking well and not peeing.

Remember to:

Ask your nurse any questions you have before you leave.

If you brought the Acetaminophen bottle with you to the hospital:

- ▶ Show your nurse how much Acetaminophen you will measure out each time you give it to your child for the two days.

If you did not bring Acetaminophen with you to the hospital:



- ▶ Take this pamphlet to your pharmacist.

If you have any questions call your pharmacist or family doctor:

It's good to ask!

Developed by the health care professionals of the Surgical Daycare Unit with assistance from the Department of Learning & Development.