

# Paracetamol – flu – India (Repurposing Scan)

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## Executive Summary

- Current clinical publications on paracetamol for flu specifically in humans in the recent years within India are sparse. Existing studies found mainly on pharmacokinetics in non-human models or in vitro experimental approaches. Authoritative flu-specific guidelines from WHO and NICE do not specifically elaborate paracetamol use but provide general management approaches. Recent Indian news highlights flu surges with symptomatic management challenges; warnings are issued regarding safe paracetamol dosing amid the flu season, and reports suggest that paracetamol may not fully ease flu-related fever for many. Overall, while paracetamol is commonly used symptomatically in flu, strong contemporary evidence for efficacy or new repurposing insights specifically in the flu indication is lacking. Safety considerations remain important in the context of prevalent use in India.

## Clinical Trials

### Summary

- Active trials: 1
- Completed trials: 4

### Phase distribution

- Observational: 0
- Phase 1: 1
- Phase 2: 0
- Phase 3: 3
- Phase 4: 0

### Highlights

- No Phase III trials identified in India

## Top Trials

Trial ID	Title	Phase	Status	Start Date
NCT01389518	Evaluation of the Efficacy and Safety of Fixed Combination of Paracetamol, Chlorpheniramine and Phenylephrine in the Treatment of Symptomatic Common Cold and Flu Syndrome in Adults	Phase 3	Completed	2009-05
NCT05901636	A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, First-in-human Phase 1/2a Study to Evaluate Safety, Reactogenicity and Immunogenicity of a Universal Influenza (Uniflu) Vaccine With INFLUENZA G1 mHA in Healthy Adults	Phase 1	Completed	2023-05-17
NCT05474755	A Multi-center, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Phase III Clinical Study on the Safety and Efficacy of GP681 Tablets in the Treatment of Acute Uncomplicated Influenza	Phase 3	Completed	2022-07-28
NCT05375864	Prognostic Impact of Early Oseltamivir Carboxylate Low Plasma Concentration in Critically Ill Patients With Severe Influenza: a Prospective Cohort Study	NA	Active	2022-12-01
NCT01158326	Evaluation of Efficacy and Safety of Oral Solution Paracetamol, Maleate Chlorpheniramine and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride in Reducing Symptoms of Common Cold and Flu: a Double-blind	Phase 3	Completed	2010-08

## Guidelines and Literature

### Guidelines

- WHO Guidelines: Generic authoritative health guideline source (disease-specific guideline not mapped in MVP).

Publisher: World Health Organization  
<https://www.who.int/publications/guidelines>

- NICE Guidelines: Generic authoritative guideline repository (disease-specific guidance not mapped in MVP).

Publisher: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

### Publications

- PMID 36840424 (2023): Pharmacokinetics and efficacy of orally administered acetaminophen (paracetamol) in adult horses with experimentally induced endotoxemia.

Journal: Journal of veterinary internal medicine  
 Finding: Title suggests study of paracetamol pharmacokinetics and efficacy in horses with endotoxemia, not directly related to human flu.

- PMID 36264934 (2022): Toward Realistic Dosimetry In Vitro: Determining Effective Concentrations of Test Substances in Cell Culture and Their Prediction by an In Silico Mass Balance Model.

Journal: Chemical research in toxicology  
 Finding: Title suggests research on in vitro dosimetry and prediction modeling, not specifically about paracetamol use in flu.

### News Signals

## • Cough, fever, repeat! Flu cases surge, recovery slow - Times of India

Times of India | 2025-09-08

Report on flu cases surge and slow recovery in India; also contextually relevant to paracetamol use in symptomatic management.

<https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMivgFBVV95cUxOUF9SNXRsaWV2aWhYelJEVEVnOWNEM3hCeFlsTm4yUFIN-MXRZRGV0Q1VXd0xkWW1PcEVUT0dUcmLR3dOY1c4czZBT0FHdVFqSVpMY3I2SnhMNUNLaWxSSVlxQUNVQ2IBNHIVbU93Ujd-vZnNqMkhSSmdQVXV6bDk1Q1RnZmJ1cmxNY2FHeHJhd2lQVnpiaG5ZWZ3T010WnV2R2U5bnhjc05vSjFEIdl9xeHk5QWN-WQUc4NWNCEjN30gHDAUFVX3lxTE9lbG5JZ2ZOaUMxTlhHczh6bzFMTEd3eUdKWENkOTBObFdVbnYxcTdraVZEamxCdkFqZHg-wQWZOVWpGcksyakJ4SjFvdkRZQlIPdExYTHITbzdncmY3MUc5LVFhZEw5MFhvQ3ZVdmhTbDJXZFIsY1ZITUltV1hUcnVEektQS-zlTTOVPVXNMZy1ZUWhCMlc1cE3ZGcyd1JNeXVOSWU3al9uYmdwUTBFVlJoWHRIZE9Gc3FFM2MxbGlmNWNkWWQ?oc=5>

## • Not common flu, but H3N2 making it difficult to recover from viral infections - India Today

India Today | 2025-09-12

Discussion on H3N2 flu strain causing difficult recovery, relevant to symptom management including paracetamol use.

<https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMisgFBVV95cUxOaUdjODRlRTl0aWdaQUZYakgxQ1R4QW55Yk0b2J1UWZNSTQ5Mjlgam-FOTnRINDVPcIN1dWfXUTNYcnFva0ZHdIRqY3NkTjNUOWZDNIJNS3JTc194OHFPcTRyTm9Ha0l0aVFPWGFQeEZfSvHkZ2FzSTJN-WWVXWXXZWGMglyZ3B6c19LUWtaZDdNWkdOZkFoUU5BMUINTENoV2NFNWQ5cjhXcEl5QzhCdnBOQlI30gG3AUFVX3lxTE5GNHJ-PalZkZFFIVUhtNHhfkxaMm5HNUtoYnQwQXRIUWZyYktZRHhFVFRYSExFbXotYwTuajQ3M3VOMWhVdIRXeGRlBpOb-VcxRHd6NEc3LXZNSFvjVDhwZmVrU3ZpN2JCU3RJSzNVWmRLVkdRbGpyaXJXRvVfbGdCSEdQRFBkaFNmNXBpNmVNS-FVDQTB0MzctdEp4VjhYWEUzZkw0Rk5nYmxZQjWdmE0UkdrQkhKMA?oc=5>

## • 38-year-old software engineer has 104 °F fever, stubborn cough and severe headache: Why is H3N2 flu affecting the under-40 group the most? - The Indian Express

The Indian Express | 2025-09-20

Report highlighting severe flu symptoms among younger adults, relevant to symptomatic treatment choices such as paracetamol.

<https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMisAFBVV95cUxPeDRZZORGdk82TGlyemhBUE5kc2FPNEFjd09jcXNhVUIMT-Fk0MUI5SWN1R3dNRlhVWBDk9GT0FlDzZYNuXWaUfOSe50MfLyTmVlbDhTaEJtQW5WS01XemtVYW9sQ0RucjRGMI83cmNiW-EVFUXZ3ekIzBtUtbWl4ZFZ0ekxRMjk4aTF1TG0yWXJmRVotQnhJNVFvaFU4cEFSc3JkT1FLeHR3WGVqVaVFySdlBtwF-BVV95cUxNV2l6VzB4cHJaX2xaSmNSEUpyc0lZRFdRzRqSTlIfUUZLV2tld3NER3k5Q2F3UFVZTUUVqR0ZQb19haTB-DU21tZUI2Ukl4SUpSMl8tZFBqQUINNVWlrdEdpYTBeExwdXg4OTZQa0dSZUhlU3Y4dmZhYzZFdUVvVmE0LTEybKpUR2ZXWEd-CWEIxNUdKdk01ckhYRm55ZXFjX01SOTNPbzILN19lc0dzS2M0dkNRamF5cjQ?oc=5>

## • Doctor warns Indians against popping Dolo 650 like gems, know how much paracetamol is safe for your body - India TV News

India TV News | 2025-04-17

Warning on safe use of paracetamol in India amid flu season, important for patient safety.

<https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMi7AFBVV95cUxQX3hLaTdITON3dIllyTGR6NEIhaXlZV1U3elk4UWcxNHBDUVM5NHNYTkx-HOGxycnVFMUkxUG43QWwwYlBVRld0ZUIGdGdmbU1fN2lzMfD6MUIIWkNWUzdYdU9VUGowdnF-makQ5c2N3ZEpiU09Kd2h3Y0RiZy14NVFYdUzLcF94YXUyZkRJTkrIWDJ6aHNRYTR5OFRVbUFibWxZNU1OYUNHdWZYZX-FubGJmVzFQMzAtVI9XT2RiOC1jY1k5cGhRY2EzM1o0M2J2OEZhZEKzRHhGQkFOci1UcVQ4aUpublp2UU1aaGtUNNIB8gF-BVV95cUxNUIVKN3Z5SUEzSWHLM3Z4dFByUDJ0d0FnUXU1WlcvWUNVZWILTENJezTQ3Q0ZVRKd-jgxWmVHd3RDZVhLSkZKV2p6T3ZQcUNkVWthbE9adUIBVklHaVJ1TmhMTEthejRpYlktM0hRUM5VdWZuajB3VzhZbHVzYV9TQW-pVdEdscGlyenhJU0UxT0NoRjFBUVIXR1JpNTZNLXF5M19kWI4THIBQmZ3ZTVlenhITU5yRFROVhHdDjabjhEV2w4Vm-FYQk45M0NTZjYyVXU3VjNQLS1uXzZ5WTBMD2IVcy1DTDJoQWd1SEx0Sktdw?oc=5>

## • Paracetamol or Dolo isn't easing fevers for many this season: What will work? - India Today

India Today | 2025-09-16

Discussion on limited efficacy of paracetamol in relieving fever in recent flu season in India.

<https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMixAFBVV95cUxQUVg5cldmZENRNTc2c2tVOEZqM09MMEJrcIU3TzFqRVNNejBj-TU55MG5oVUxUOEhB2NCdDFfUXhjeWliTDA4Q1dBUzQ1MTIzdkpKTVk1QWJOT3dybFJvTnlaeWZyaTVJQVFZeJ-doc0g2dU54eWJSVINwc1phcVd5em1WQnhLdExHd3BCeXQzNDhCejdLQzICLW5LYWVWPQXhKc0laU3IzRXZVSDVMN1JIT-zl1cGtrVUc0M3N6NjZEcVmbkVn0gHKAUFVX3lxTFBDRUFTNE5hc1NYSglU0xJSE1XRzh4VWR0U3IBUTJK-WEN5Xzk2elB2cXJ1cjhvczICaFR2X2NVYjIzT2FTVUxOVXhYxSUxncVMtWE9wVmVqMWWrtZ1k4OHdpRXpKckMxUDNGSWppYXZFSE-QwWmg3dHZyLTdZyVhqqTTZGLUZWRFpGWDVTcktpNHBMBE1pTnRIYkhNumpLTLNUQWRudUpRsnlqUXFHblYt-TIVKRE1JbKx5Q2w5SHBJT3ZicTFOajktQIRsS0E?oc=5>

## Repurposing Options

- Targeted subgroup usage

Rationale: Current clinical publications on paracetamol for flu specifically in humans in the recent years within India are sparse. Existing studies found mainly on pharmacokinetics in non-human models or in vitro experimental approaches. Authoritative flu-specific guidelines from WHO and NICE do not specifically elaborate paracetamol use but provide general management approaches. Recent Indian news highlights flu surges with symptomatic management challenges; warnings are issued regarding safe paracetamol dosing amid the flu season, and reports suggest that paracetamol may not fully ease flu-related fever for many. Overall, while paracetamol is commonly used symptomatically in flu, strong contemporary evidence for efficacy or new repurposing insights specifically in the flu indication is lacking. Safety considerations remain important in the context of prevalent use in India.

Evidence: WHO Guidelines, NICE Guidelines

## Risks and Gaps

- Limited late-stage clinical evidence
- Geography-specific data gaps for India

## References

- guideline: WHO Guidelines

<https://www.who.int/publications/guidelines>

- guideline: NICE Guidelines

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

- publication: PMID:36840424

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36840424/>

- publication: PMID:36264934

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36264934/>

- trial: NCT01389518

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT01389518>

- trial: NCT05901636

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05901636>

- trial: NCT05474755

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05474755>

- trial: NCT05375864

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05375864>

- trial: NCT01158326

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT01158326>

## Warnings

- **FTO requested but not executed in MVP**
- **Supply view requested but not executed in MVP**