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|  | As I sat in the sterile dentistry chair, the glossy coat melded my nervous sweat to the brown analgahide. The smell of rubbing alcohol and formaldehyde gave me an all too vivid preview of the throbbing pain I was soon to endure. Dr. Roman entered the room; the very air that surrounded us seemed to yield to his slow and precise movements. As Dr. Roman prepared the instruments and last minute paper work; I asked, "What kind of pain killers should I use after the surgery?" Dr. Roman explained that he had been to a seminar earlier that month where he was told that recent research had proven that 3-150cc capsules of ibuprofen would have the same effect as a single 650cc capsule of vicodin. When the surgery was over I decided to test Dr. Roman's advice.  When I returned home I pulled two bottles out of a bag. One bottle contained vicodin and the other ibuprofen. Remembering the statement of my kind hearted, yet naive doctor, I put the vicodin aside and took 3-150cc capsules of ibuprofen. To my dismay a few hours later I awoke in my bed and realized the mistake I had made. I longed for the bottle of vicodin. Looking back on the incident, I wondered where the doctors at that seminar had acquired their information This question sparked my curiosity and gave me the topic of my research project.  The two types of drugs I was instructed to use after my surgery were ibuprofen and vicodin. However, to gain better experimental evidence I decided to use a basic over the counter analgesic (drug that lessens or relieves pain) along with the other two prescription drugs. The three drugs I utilized were Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Vicodin.  \*Tylenol: Tylenol is simply a brand name for the active pain reliever naprosyn. Naprosyn is an arylacetic acid, and is an anti-inflammatory, analgesic. Some side effects of this drug are upset stomach, disruption of central nervous system causing symptoms such as tinnitus (ringing in ears), dizziness, and lightheadedness. This drug provides very little pain relief through analgesic properties. Instead, it relies on anti-inflammatory properties to relive pressure.  \* Ibuprofen: Ibuprofen is an analgesic with strong anti-inflammatory properties. This drug has stronger analgesic properties then Tylenol and aspirin yet still focuses on anti-inflammatory properties to relive pressure thus reliving pain.  \* Vicodin: Vicodin is the most powerful pain reliever in this experiment. This drug is a synthetic derivative of the opium plant. Opiates are used in such extreme and illegal analgesics such as heroin and cocaine. acts on the central nervous system and smooth muscle formations. This drug acts to relive pain by binding with nerve receptors of the brain and spinal column. When the active chemical acetaminophen binds with a nerve receptor it simple clogs the chemical and electrical pathways, preventing the pain signal from reaching the brain. This drug is very effective in relieving pain, yet is not designed to solve the problem and sometimes can cause the body's natural healing mechanism to slow. Side affects of this drug are drowsiness, mood swings, and mental clouding.  Few things in this world can cause a person to feel utterly helpless. Pain has the capability to induce fear, vulnerability, and shock; which may result in death. Many people fear pain more then anything. If you don't believe me; go to your local drug store and you will find a plethora of painkillers. Most of these over-the-counter drugs are as effective for killing pain, as is chewing bubble gum to solve an algebra equation. The research I have conducted attempts to determine which pain reliever worked best on a specific type of inflammatory pain. |
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*This Web Site is Best viewed with 256 or more colors.*

*For More Information about Creekwatch, please contact Eric Thiel at* [*ethiel@pleasanton.k12.ca.us*](mailto:ethiel@pleasanton.k12.ca.us)