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Infants Tylenol

COMMON BRAND NAME(S):

GENERIC NAME(S): Tylenol

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Information for Patients



Dosage



Acetaminophen is an active ingredient in hundreds of over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medicines. It relieves pain and fever. And, it is also combined with other active ingredients in medicines that treat allergy, cough, colds, flu, and sleeplessness. In prescription medicines, acetaminophen is found with other active ingredients to treat moderate to severe pain. Acetaminophen can cause serious liver damage if more than directed is used. The FDA has taken action to improve the safety of consumers when using acetaminophen.

Why does this pose a danger?

If a pediatrician prescribes a 5 mL dose of the less concentrated liquid acetaminophen, but the parents administer a 5 mL dose of the more concentrated liquid acetaminophen, the child can receive a potentially fatal overdose during the course of therapy, Holquist explains. Conversely, if a physician prescribes a dose based on the more concentrated liquid acetaminophen and the less concentrated medication is used, the child might not receive enough medication to fight a fever, she says.

FDA has issued a Drug Safety Communication with more information for consumers about how to avoid confusion and potential dosing errors with the different concentrations of liquid acetaminophen.

What Should You Do?

Adding to the confusion is the fact that that the box and the bottle may look much the same for both old and new versions of the medication, Holquist says.

Read the Drug Facts label to tell the difference between the two liquid acetaminophen products:

Look for the “Active ingredient” section of the Drug Facts label usually printed on the back of an over-the-counter (OTC) medication package.

If the package says “160 mg per 5 mL” or “160 mg (in each 5 mL)”, then this is the less concentrated liquid acetaminophen. This medication should come with an oral syringe to help you measure the dose.

If the package says “80 mg per 0.8 mL” or “80 mg per 1 mL,” then this is the more concentrated liquid acetaminophen. This product may come with a dropper.

Usage



Contraindications



How Supplied

