

# Medication

STUDENT NAME: Hannah Rossi

MEDICATION: Acetaminophen

CATEGORY CLASS: Nonnarcotic analgesic; antipyretic

## Expected Pharmacological Action:

Analgesic: Activates descending serotonergic inhibitory pathways to the CNS

Antipyretic: Inhibits hypothalamic heat regulating center

## Therapeutic Use:

Analgesic: produces analgesic effect (relief of mild to moderate pain)

Antipyretic: reduces fever

## Complications: \*not many side effects of acetaminophen\* rare: hypersensitivity reactions,

Signs of toxicity: nausea, diaphoresis, anorexia, fatigue within 12-24 hrs. vomiting, RUQ tenderness, and elevated LFT in 48-72 hrs

## Medication Administration (PO):

Adults/elderly/children of 12yo:

- Regular strength 325 mg- 650 mg q4-q6hr (max Dose: 3250 mg/day)
- Extra Strength: 1000 mg q6hr (max dose:3000 mg/day)
- Extended release: 1300 mg q8hr (max 3900 mg/day)

## Contraindications/Precautions:

Contraindications: hypersensitivity, severe hepatic impairment or severe active liver disease,

Precautions: sensitivity to acetaminophen, severe renal impairment, alcohol dependency, hepatic impairment or active hepatic disease, chronic malnutrition, hypovolemia

## Nursing Interventions:

- Assess pain onset, type, location, and duration of pain
- Assess for fever
- Assess LFT in pt with chronic usage or hx of hepatic impairment, or alcohol abuse.

**Interactions:** Alcohol (chronic use destroys liver which would filter acetaminophen), hepatotoxic medications, strong CYP3A4 inhibitors, Dasatinib or probenecid,

**Note: liver is main filtering organ with acetaminophen and may alter liver function values (AST, ALT, and bilirubin)**

## Client Education:

- consult PCP for use in children under 2 y.o.
- severe recurrent pain, or high continuous fever, may indicate serious illness
- do not take more than 4g per day (4000 mg)
- avoid alcohol

## Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness:

Assess for relief of pain and fever