

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: Medication

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MEDICATION Acetaminophen REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Nonsalicylate

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Inhibits the enzyme cyclooxygenase, interferes with pain impulse generation in peripheral nervous system. Also acts directly on temperature-reg. center in hypothalamus.

Therapeutic Use

- Antipyretic - reduces fever
- Analgesic - site & mechanism unclear

Complications

* CNS: Agitation, anxiety, fatigue, fever, headache, fever, insomnia * CV: Hypotension, Hypertension, peripheral edema * EENT: Stridor
 * ENDO: Hypoglycemic coma * GI: Abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhea, hepatotoxicity, jaundice, nausea, vomiting
 * GU: Oliguria * Heme: Hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, neutropenia * MS: Muscle Spasm * Resp: Parenteral form, atelectasis
 * Skin: rash, reddening

Medication Administration

- Chewable
- Extended release forms should not be swallowed (not exceed 4g or 2.5g/24hr)
- Over 18 yrs: PO: 325-650mg q 4-hrs or 1g 3-4 hrs times daily or 150mg q 4hr
 Suppository: 325-650mg q 4-hrs PRN
- 12 yrs: PO: 10-15mg q 4-hrs PRN (not to exceed 6 doses/24 hrs)
 Suppository: 10-20mg q 4-hrs
- Infant: PO: 10-15mg q 4-hrs PRN (not to exceed 6 doses/24 hrs)
 Suppository: 10-20mg q 4-hrs

Contraindications/Precautions

Hypersensitivity to acetaminophen or its components, severe hepatic impairment, severe active liver disease

Nursing Interventions

1. do not exceed recommended dosage
2. to consult physician if needed for children < 3yr, if needed for more than 10 days consult dr.
3. if severe pain & fever continues contact dr.
4. Avoid using multiple preparations containing acetaminophen
5. Give med with food if stomach upset occurs
6. Treatment of overdose, monitor serum levels regularly

Interactions

- Drugs: anticholinergics: decreased onset of acetaminophen action/barbiturates, carbamazepine, etc: decreased therapeutic effects
 - dantrolene, imatinib: possibly increased risk hepatotoxicity / - Lamotrigine: possibly decreased therapeutic effects / propranolol: possibly increased action if med
- Warfarin: Possibly increased international normalized ratio
- Activities
 - Alcohol use: increased risk of hepatotoxicity

Client Education

- Tablets may be crushed or swallowed whole but that extended release forms should not be broken, chewed, crushed, or split
- Instruct to read manufacturer label & follow dosage guidelines precisely. Explain infants & childrens liquid are not the same, use only measuring device that came with bottle.
- Instruct patient not to exceed recommended dosage & not to take other drugs containing acetaminophen at same time, risk of liver damage.
- Teach signs of hepatotoxicity, such as bleeding, easy bruising, & malaise.
- * Serious skin reactions may happen, is rare. (skin rash, redness, or blisters; to stop using drug & seek emergency treatment immediately.

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

1. Relief of pain
2. Fever is reduced

