Acetaminophen

Common Use: Relief of minor pain and/or fever.

Key Tips:

- Acetaminophen is an active ingredient in many over-the-counter medications and prescription medications used to reduce pain, fever, and symptoms of the common cold. It is important not to exceed the maximum daily dose of 3000 mg for acetaminophen to prevent liver injury. Speak with your physician before starting more than one acetaminophen product at a time.
- It is important to read the labels of all over-the-counter medications to determine if acetaminophen is one of the active ingredients in them.
- Some forms of acetaminophen come in extended-release tablets – Swallow the extended release tabs whole. Do not chew, crush, split or dissolve them.
- If using the oral liquid of acetaminophen, shake the bottle well before each use and use the oral syringe that comes with the product for dosing.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication. Both acetaminophen and alcohol can cause damage to the liver.

Warning Signs

Call your doctor if you have any of these side effects:

- Allergic reaction: swelling of the face, mouth, and throat; difficulty breathing, itching, or rash
- Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
- Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or severe stomach pain
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Dark-colored urine or stools
- Lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, or weakness

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

References:

National Library of Medicine at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo

U.S. Food and Drug Administration at http://www.fda.gov

Micromedex Care Notes