ACETAMINOPHEN

1.0 Classification
- Aniline analgesic and antipyretic

2.0 Mechanism of Action
- Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis resulting in analgesia; less effect on cyclooxygenase therefore very little anti-inflammatory properties.

3.0 Indications
- Mild to moderate pain associated with:
  - Headache
  - Hip or extremity trauma
  - Musculoskeletal neck or back pain
- Tympanic temperature above 38° Celsius (in context of infectious etiology)

4.0 Contraindications
- Hypersensitivity to acetaminophen
- Active vomiting and unable to take oral medications
- Major burns
- History of liver disease

5.0 Precautions
- None

6.0 Route
- May be given PO

7.0 Dosage

   Adult
   - 650-1000 mg PO once (no repeat dose, maximum prehospital dose is 1000 mg if patient has not received previous acetaminophen dose within past 6 hours)

   Pediatric
   - 15 mg/kg PO once (no repeat dose, maximum prehospital dose is 15 mg/kg if patient has not received dose within past 6 hours)

8.0 Supplied
- 325 mg tablets
- 15 mL bottles of 80 mg/mL

9.0 May Be Given By
- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects
- Very few side effects when used for recommended reasons
11.0 Special notes
   • Acetaminophen and ibuprofen should be administered together for pain management whenever possible
   • If pediatric patient is able to swallow tablets and appropriate dose is at least 325 mg, acetaminophen tablets can be administered (titrate dose to closest multiple of 325 mg)
   • Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

12.0 References
   • Pain Management Clinical Practice Guideline
   • General Malaise Clinical Practice Guideline
   • Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed
Copyright © Emergency Health Services