

Paracetamol and codeine

Class: Analgesic Combination (Opioid)

Indications: Relief of mild-to-moderate pain

Available dosage form in the hospital: Tablet, oral: paracetamol 500 mg and codeine phosphate 10 mg.

Dosage: Doses should be adjusted according to severity of pain and response of the patient. Adult doses ≥ 60 mg codeine fail to give commensurate relief of pain but merely prolong analgesia and are associated with an appreciably increased incidence of side effects.

-Cough (Antitussive): Oral: Based on codeine (15-30 mg/dose) every 4-6 hours (maximum: 360 mg/24 hours based on codeine component)

-Pain (Analgesic): Oral: Based on codeine (30-60 mg/dose) every 4-6 hours (maximum: 4000 mg/24 hours based on acetaminophen component)

1-2 tablets every 4 hours to a maximum of 12 tablets/24 hours.

Geriatric

Doses should be titrated to appropriate analgesic effect.

One Tylenol® No. 3 tablet every 4 hours; do **not** exceed 4 g/day acetaminophen.

Renal Impairment: See individual agents.

So ***Paracetamol:***

-Oral (Aronoff, 2007):

- Cl_{cr} 10-50 mL/minute: Administer every 6 hours.
- $Cl_{cr} < 10$ mL/minute: Administer every 8 hours.
- Intermittent hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis: No adjustment necessary.
- CRRT: Administer every 8 hours.

-I.V.: $Cl_{cr} \leq 30$ mL/minute: Use with caution; consider decreasing daily dose and extending dosing interval.

Codeine:

-Manufacturer's recommendations: Clearance may be reduced; active metabolites may accumulate. Initiate at lower doses or longer dosing intervals followed by careful titration.

-Alternate recommendations: The following guidelines have been used by some clinicians (Aronoff, 2007):

- Cl_{cr} 10-50 mL/minute: Administer 75% of dose
- $Cl_{cr} < 10$ mL/minute: Administer 50% of dose

Hepatic Impairment: Use with caution. Limited, low-dose therapy is usually well tolerated in hepatic disease/cirrhosis; however, cases of hepatotoxicity at daily acetaminophen dosages <4 g/day have been reported. Avoid chronic use in hepatic impairment.

Common side effects: >10%:

Central nervous system: Dizziness, lightheadedness, sedation

Gastrointestinal: Nausea, vomiting

Respiratory: Dyspnea

1% to 10%:

Central nervous system: Dysphonia, euphoria

Dermatologic: Pruritus

Gastrointestinal: Abdominal pain, constipation

Miscellaneous: Histamine release

<1% (Limited to important or life-threatening): Antidiuretic hormone release, biliary tract spasm, bradycardia, hypotension, intracranial pressure increased, miosis, palpitation, peripheral vasodilation, physical and psychological dependence, respiratory depression, urinary retention

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C