

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

# PARACETAMOL = ACETAMINOPHEN oral

## Therapeutic action

- Analgesic, antipyretic

## Indications

- Mild pain
- Fever

## Forms and strengths

- 100 mg and 500 mg tablets
- 120 mg/5 ml oral suspension

## Dosage

- Child under 1 month: 10 mg/kg 3 or 4 times daily, if necessary (max. 40 mg/kg daily)
- Child 1 month and over: 15 mg/kg 3 or 4 times daily, if necessary (max. 60 mg/kg daily)
- Adult: 1 g 3 or 4 times daily, if necessary (max. 4 g daily)

Age	Weight	120 mg/5 ml susp.	100 mg tablet	500 mg tablet
< 1 month	< 4 kg	1.5 ml x 3	–	–
1 to < 3 months	4 to < 6 kg	2.5 ml x 3	½ tab x 3	–
3 months to < 1 year	6 to < 10 kg	4 ml x 3	1 tab x 3	–
1 to < 3 years	10 to < 15 kg	6 ml x 3	1½ tab x 3	–
3 to < 5 years	15 to < 20 kg	8 ml x 3	2 tab x 3	–
5 to < 9 years	20 to < 30 kg	12 ml x 3	3 tab x 3	–
9 to < 14 years	30 to < 50 kg	–	–	1 tab x 3
≥ 14 years and adult	≥ 50 kg	–	–	2 tab x 3

## Duration

- According to clinical response

## Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Administer with caution to patients with hepatic impairment.
- Do not exceed indicated doses, especially in children and elderly patients. Paracetamol intoxications are severe (hepatic cytolysis).
- *Pregnancy: no contra-indication*
- *Breast-feeding: no contra-indication*

## Remarks

- For mild pain, paracetamol is used alone or in combination with an NSAID.
- For moderate pain, paracetamol is used in combination with an NSAID and codeine or tramadol.
- For severe pain, paracetamol is used in combination with an NSAID and morphine.
- Paracetamol is particularly recommended for patients allergic to aspirin, patients with a history of gastric problems and for pregnant and breast-feeding women and children.
- Paracetamol has no anti-inflammatory properties.
- *Storage: below 25 °C - ~~7~~*