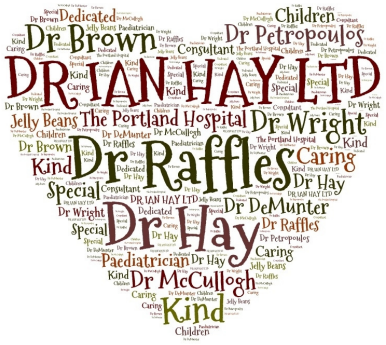

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PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET: PARACETAMOL DOSAGE

PARACETAMOL is a very safe and effective medicine used to treat pain and fever in children

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has recently revised the guidelines on dosages for children. Previously the wide age band recommendations meant that there was a risk that young children may have received a higher dose of PARACETAMOL than was necessary for optimal therapeutic effect

There are two different strengths of liquid PARACETAMOL formulations for children and the changes apply to both of them

The new dosage age bands are as follows:

1. INFANT PARACETAMOL suspension (120 mg/5 mls)

    1. Age 3-6 months: 2.5 mls 4 times per 24 hours
    2. Age 6-24 months: 5 mls 4 times per 24 hours
    3. 2-4 years: 7.5 mls 4 times per 24 hours
    4. 4-6 years: 10 mls 4 times per 24 hours

2. PARACETAMOL SIX PLUS suspension (240 mg/5 mls or 250 mg/5 mls)

    1. Age 6-8 years: 5 mls 4 times per 24 hours
    2. Age 8-10 years: 7.5 mls 4 times per 24 hours
    3. Age 10-12 years: 10 mls 4 times per day

These new dosage age bands are clearly labelled on current packaging

The maximum total dose in 24 hours must not exceed 90mg/kg between the ages of 3 months to 12 years. This will not occur if the dosage schedule is followed

PARACETAMOL is supplied with a dosing device such a plastic spoon or measuring syringe which should be used to ensure that uniform doses are given. It is also important to shake the bottle vigorously before giving the dose to ensure the PARACETAMOL is divided equally between each dose.

Like all medicines, PARACETAMOL should be stored safely out of reach of children to prevent accidental ingestion and overdosing. Most children who accidentally ingest PARACETAMOL do not require active treatment as they seldom ingest sufficient amounts to be at risk for liver damage.