

Acetaminophen and Diphenhydramine

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Related InformationAcetaminophen *on page 32*DiphenhydrAMINE (Systemic) *on page 540***U.S. Brand Names** Excedrin PM® [OTC]; Goody's PM® [OTC]; Legatrin PM® [OTC]; Mapap PM [OTC]; Percogesic® Extra Strength [OTC]; TopCare® Pain Relief PM [OTC]; Tylenol® PM [OTC]; Tylenol® Severe Allergy [OTC]**Pharmacologic Category** Analgesic, Miscellaneous**Use** Aid in the relief of insomnia accompanied by minor pain**Local Anesthetic/Vasoconstrictor Precautions** No information available to require special precautions**Effects on Dental Treatment** Key adverse event(s) related to dental treatment: Xerostomia (normal salivary flow resumes upon discontinuation). See Dental Comment.**Effects on Bleeding** No information available to require special precautions**Adverse Effects** See individual agents.**General Dosage Range Oral:** *Children ≥12 years and Adults:* 50 mg of diphenhydramine HCl (76 mg diphenhydramine citrate) at bedtime**Dental Comment** Hepatotoxicity caused by acetaminophen is potentiated by chronic alcohol consumption. People who are taking acetaminophen, even at therapeutic doses, and consume alcohol are at risk of developing hepatotoxicity.

Acetaminophen may increase the levels and enhance the anticoagulant effects of vitamin K antagonists acenocoumarol and warfarin (Coumadin®). Studies have reported that acetaminophen has increased the INR in warfarin treated patients with daily acetaminophen doses as low as 2 g, particularly when taking acetaminophen for >1 week (Antlitz, 1968; Boeijinga, 1982; Gebauer, 2003; Hylek, 1998; Rubin, 1984). In addition, case reports of bleeding as a result of increased INR have been published (Bagheri, 1999; Bartle, 1991). There is no known mechanism of the interaction; furthermore, some studies have failed to demonstrate this interaction (Gadisseur, 2003; Kwan, 1995; van den Bemt, 2002). In terms of risk, the data suggest that acetaminophen and warfarin could interact in some clinically significant manner but that the benefits of concomitant use of acetaminophen for pain control in dental patients taking warfarin usually outweigh the risks. An appropriate monitoring plan should be in place to identify potential negative effects and dosage adjustments may be necessary in a minority of patients. The interaction may be more likely to occur with daily acetaminophen doses of >1.3 g for >1 week.

There are no reports of acetaminophen interacting with antiplatelet drugs such as aspirin, clopidogrel (Plavix®), or prasugrel (Effient™). Also, there are no reports of acetaminophen in combination with hydrocodone, codeine, or oxycodone interacting with warfarin (Coumadin®).

Acetaminophen and Phenylephrine (a seet a MIN oh fen & fen il EF rin)**Related Information**Acetaminophen *on page 32*Phenylephrine (Systemic) *on page 1339***U.S. Brand Names** Alka-Seltzer Plus® Sinus Formula [OTC]; Cetafen Cold® [OTC]; Contac® Cold + Flu Maximum Strength Non-Drowsy [OTC]; Excedrin® Sinus Headache [OTC]; Mapap® Sinus Congestion and Pain Daytime [OTC]; Sinus Pain & Pressure [OTC]; Sinutab® Sinus [OTC]; Sudafed PE® Pressure + Pain [OTC]; Sudafed PE® Sinus Headache [OTC] [DSC]; Tylenol® Sinus Congestion & Pain Daytime [OTC]; Vicks® DayQuil® Sinus [OTC]**Pharmacologic Category** Analgesic, Miscellaneous; Decongestant**Use** Temporary relief of sinus/nasal congestion and pressure, headache, and minor aches and pains**Local Anesthetic/Vasoconstrictor Precautions** Use with caution since phenylephrine is a sympathomimetic amine which could interact with epinephrine to cause a pressor response.**Effects on Dental Treatment** Key adverse event(s) related to dental treatment: Tachycardia, palpitations (use vasoconstrictor with caution), and xerostomia (normal salivary flow resumes upon discontinuation). See Dental Comment.**Effects on Bleeding** No information available to require special precautions**Adverse Effects** See individual agents.**General Dosage Range Oral:** *Children ≥12 years and Adults:* Acetaminophen 325 mg and phenylephrine 5 mg/caplet: Take 2 caplets every 4 hours as needed (maximum: 12 caplets/24 hours; maximum acetaminophen: 4 g/day)