

Acetaminophen with codeine (acetaminophen / codeine)

basics

Treats mild to moderate pain. Acetaminophen with codeine (acetaminophen / codeine) is a good option to treat pain when over-the-counter medicines aren't enough, but don't take too much acetaminophen (Tylenol) since it can hurt your liver.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Works best if you take it as soon as you start feeling pain.
- Can make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid activities need you to be fully alert until you know how it affects you.
- Take it with food to lower the chance of an upset stomach.
- Constipation is common and may not go away while you're taking this medicine. Drinking lots of water and and talk to your pharmacist about laxative use.
- Use it for the shortest time possible, and at the lowest dose possible, to lower your chance of experiencing severe side effects.
- Be careful if you are using other over-the-counter or prescription products containing Tylenol (acetaminophen). High doses of Tylenol can lead to liver failure.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Liver failure and death

Taking more than 4000mg of acetaminophen per day can cause liver failure or death. Be very careful taking any over-the-counter medicines that have acetaminophen in them. This is more likely to happen if you're a heavy alcohol drinker or you've had liver damage in the past. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.

High risk to children

Children taking codeine for pain after tonsil or adenoid surgery have died because of sudden stopping of breathing. Due to this high risk, codeine is no longer recommended for children. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions.

Use with other CNS depressants

Using Acetaminophen with codeine (acetaminophen / codeine) with other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, like alcohol and benzodiazepines, can cause severe sedation, lower breathing rate, coma, and death. Avoid using Acetaminophen with codeine (acetaminophen / codeine) with these types of medicines, and talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.