



Postoperative pain management

To help manage pain, Dr. Biavati may tell you to give your child ibuprofen, which also goes by the names Motrin or Advil. Alternatively, he may tell you to use Tylenol, which is the brand name for acetaminophen. Or, he may prescribe a narcotic pain medication. There are several: Lortab or Tylenol with codeine are the most common.

Lortab combines acetaminophen with hydrocodone. Sometimes Tylenol with codeine is substituted. Both hydrocodone and codeine have a bitter taste, which can be masked by flavorings you can have made at the pharmacy.

When giving pain medication, it is OK and recommended, initially, to wake your child at night to do so. After a few days, this will likely not be necessary.

Make sure your child drinks plenty of fluids. Not drinking enough fluids, or dehydration, will increase your child's pain and discomfort.

Narcotic pain medication rarely causes nausea and vomiting, but it may help to give your child food with the medication. Constipation can sometimes be caused by narcotics. If constipation lasts for more than a few days, please call your pediatrician for further advice. Narcotics can also cause itching. This can be treated with Benadryl or other over-the-counter antihistamines. If a rash is present, this may be a medication allergy.

Directions for Lortab or Tylenol with codeine

Give your child the narcotic medication up to every four (4) hours for pain. The dosage is based on your child's weight, so don't give more medicine than is recommended unless advised by your physician.

Since Lortab and Tylenol with codeine contain acetaminophen, DO NOT use additional Tylenol. If you have given your child Tylenol, you must wait four (4) hours before you can give Lortab or Tylenol with codeine.

Lortab and Tylenol with codeine can be given with ibuprofen, but give your child the narcotic every four (4) hours, Motrin every six (6) hours. Lortab and Tylenol with codeine can be given for as many days as needed.

If narcotic pain medication is given every four (4) hours for several days, slowly reduce the amount you give your child over the space of a few days to avoid withdrawal symptoms

Directions for Motrin / Advil / ibuprofen

Give the appropriate dose of ibuprofen every six (6) hours. Please refer to the bottle for dosing instructions. You may give your child ibuprofen in addition to or instead of Lortab or Tylenol with codeine, just not as often.

Directions for Tylenol / acetaminophen

Give the appropriate dose of acetaminophen as often as every four (4) hours. Please refer to the bottle for dosing instructions. Since both commonly-used narcotic pain medications contain acetaminophen, DO NOT use regular Tylenol or acetaminophen within four (4) hours of giving the narcotic.