



Post-operative 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. Lortab (Tylenol with hydrocodone) is most commonly prescribed for children.

Lortab combines acetaminophen with hydrocodone. Hydrocodone has 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 or vomiting, but it may help to give your child food with the medication.

Constipation can sometimes result when taking narcotics. If your child is prone to constipation you may want to start using a stool softener like Miralax prior to surgery. If constipation lasts for more than a few days, please call your pediatrician for further advice.

Narcotics can also cause itching which is a reaction to the narcotic and not an allergy. This can be treated with Benadryl or other over-the-counter antihistamines. If a rash (typically over the trunk) is present, this may be a medication allergy. Stop using the medication and call our office.

Directions for Lortab (Tylenol with hydrocodone)

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. It is OK to give a smaller dose than what is prescribed.

Since Lortab contains acetaminophen, **DO NOT use additional Tylenol**. If you have given your child Tylenol, you must wait four (4) hours before you can give Lortab (Tylenol with hydrocodone).

Lortab can be given with ibuprofen. But give the Lortab every four (4) hours and Motrin every six (6) hours. Lortab 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.

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Pain Management continued

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, 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.**