



Timothy M. Lawrence D.D.S., M.S., INC.
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon

Maximum Effective Use Of Pain Medication

There are three different types of pain medication we typically recommend using for oral surgical patients. They are:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen)
- Tylenol
- Narcotics (codeine, hydrocodone, propoxyphene and others)

Because these medications each work in their own special way, there are certain risks and benefits to using each and combinations of each of these medications.

The following recommendations will help you determine how best to use these medications to your best advantage. If you have any questions or do not understand this advice, please call the office at 419-473-2707. After hours the doctor is on-call and can be reached by calling the office or referring to your post-operative instruction sheet.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) (ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen)

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medications may have been prescribed (usually ibuprofen/Motrin) or you can use over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen, Aleve or aspirin if you have not been given a prescription of Motrin. The key to using this medication is using enough and using it on a regular basis for the next 3-5 days.

Tylenol and Narcotic Medication

The prescription you have been given for pain has Tylenol (acetaminophen) and a narcotic (such as codeine, oxycodone, propoxyphene or hydrocodone) combined in one pill.

If your prescription has 325 mg of acetaminophen you can take as many as 12 of these pills in a 24 hour period. You could take as much as one every two hours or two every four hours and still stay within the maximum recommended dose of acetaminophen.

If your prescription has 500 mg of acetaminophen you can take only as many as 8 in a 24 hour period. You could take one every three hours or as many as two every 6 hours and stay within the maximum recommended dose of acetaminophen.

If your prescription has 650 mg of acetaminophen you should take them no more than one every four hours.

When you get to the point where the pain is not too bad, or you are developing unpleasant side effects from the narcotic you could discontinue the use of this medication and simply take Tylenol over the counter instead.

Please Note: If you are taking anti-inflammatory medicines or medication for arthritis or other pain conditions please inform our office. If you know or think you have liver disease, kidney disease, coagulation (bleeding) disorders, hematology (blood) disease please inform our office. If you have allergies to any medications or if you develop or think you are having an allergic reaction to the above medications STOP taking them and call our office. Narcotic pain medications cause sedation and delayed reaction time and may impair judgment. Do not drive or operate dangerous machinery while taking these medications.