



PROTOCOL FOR IV PARACETAMOL ADMINISTRATION IN ADULTS

INDICATION

- Intravenous (IV) paracetamol is licensed for the short-term treatment of moderate pain, especially following surgery, and for the short-term treatment of fever, when administration by the IV route is clinically justified by an urgent need to treat pain or hyperthermia.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Nil by mouth
- Nauseated and vomiting
- At risk of aspiration

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Other routes of administration are available
- IV paracetamol is contra-indicated in severe hepatic insufficiency

DOSE REDUCTION FACTORS

- Low body weight: less than 50kg
- Hepatic impairment
- Chronic alcoholism
- Dehydration
- Receiving enzyme inducers chronically e.g. rifampicin, phenytoin, carbamazepine, st John's wort.
- Risk factors for glutathione depletion e.g. HIV, cystic fibrosis, Chronic malnutrition

DOSING GUIDE

Weight	Single dose	Maximum daily dose
33-50kg regardless of risk factors	15mg/kg every 4-6 hours* (max four times daily)	60mg/kg up to 3g in 24 hours
>50kg with risk factors	1g every 8 hours	60mg/kg up to 3g in 24 hours
>50kg without risk factors	1g every 4-6 hours* (max four times daily)	60mg/kg up to 4g in 24 hours

PRESCRIBING NOTES

- ***Creatinine clearance of ≤ 10 ml/min, the dose is 500mg-1g (or 15mg/kg if wt < 50kg) every 6-8 hours.**
- The use of intravenous paracetamol should be reviewed every 24 hours, and a switch to oral is advised as soon as it is clinically appropriate
- Do not prescribe "IV/PO" for route of administration as the doses are not always interchangeable
- All doses should be administered over 15 minutes
- Take care to avoid dosing errors due to confusion between milligram(mg) and millilitre(ml)

References

1. Maria Richards, Alison Felton (15/05/2018) *Prescribing paracetamol in adult inpatients at MEHT*, Available at: <http://www.meht.nhs.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=22490&type=full&servicetype=Attachment> (Accessed: 02/10/2019).
2. Dr J Cranshaw, Dr S McCabe, Laura Granger (February 2012) *GUIDELINE FOR PARACETAMOL USE*, Available at: <http://www.meht.nhs.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=22490&type=full&servicetype=Attachment> (Accessed: 02/10/2019).
3. EMC: Accord Healthcare Limited (28/06/2018) *Paracetamol Accord 10 mg/ml Solution for Infusion*, Available at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/10035> (Accessed: 02/10/2019).
4. Renal drug database (10/10/2017) *PARACETAMOL: DOSE IN RENAL IMPAIRMENT*, Available at: <http://renaldrugdatabase.com> (Accessed 02/10/2019)