

What do I need to know about acetaminophen?

(say “a-see-ta-MIN-o-fen”)

Other names for this medicine include: TYLENOL®, Tempra®, FeverAll®

Medicine is one of the tools your doctor has to treat your lupus. Taking medicine as your doctor suggests will improve how you feel. And it may prevent more serious health problems in the future. If you don't take your medicines correctly, you may be putting your health, and perhaps your life, at risk.

Why am I taking this medicine?

Acetaminophen is a medicine that relieves or reduces pain. It can be helpful during a flare to help decrease joint and muscle pain. It can also reduce a fever due to lupus. Using acetaminophen can help reduce the amount of other medicines you may need during a flare, and it has fewer side effects.

How do I take this medicine?

- Your doctor wants you to take acetaminophen _____ mg tablets.
- Take _____ tablets by mouth every _____ hours.
- Do not take more than _____ tablets per day.

How fast does it work?

Acetaminophen usually begins to work in 20-30 minutes.

I'm feeling better. Can I stop taking my medicine?

Maybe. If your doctor tells you to use acetaminophen “as needed” for your pain or fever, you can stop it when you feel better. If your doctor tells you to use acetaminophen regularly, do not stop until your doctor says it's O.K. to stop.

URGENT

Call your doctor immediately, day or night, if you have:

- **Yellowing of the skin or eyes**

IMPORTANT

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- Stomach pain
- Rash or itching
- Loss of appetite (not hungry)
- Nausea (feeling sick, like you have to throw up)
- Dark urine

Are there any side effects?

Side effects are unplanned symptoms (signs) or feelings you have when taking a medicine. Some side effects happen just when you start taking a medicine. Some happen only once in a while.

Most side effects are not serious and go away on their own. Others can be more bothersome and even serious. Keep track of side effects. **Tell your doctor right away about any unexpected signs or changes in the way you feel.**

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this medicine?

- When you reach for an over-the-counter cough, cold, or flu product, take a look at the label. Does it contain acetaminophen? Check the labels carefully. Taking them together could cause you to receive an overdose. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice on which product is best for your cough, cold, or flu symptoms.
- Do not take acetaminophen if you are taking another medicine that also contains acetaminophen.
- You should discuss with your doctor about taking acetaminophen if you have liver disease.
- Drinking alcohol while taking acetaminophen can increase your possibility for liver disease.
- Tell your doctor about all medicines you use. This includes prescriptions, medicines you buy off the shelf at the store, vitamins, and herbal products. Do not start a new medicine without telling your doctor.



Keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Never share your medicines with others. Use this medicine only for the reason your doctor said to.

What follow-up do I need?

Keep your regular appointments with your doctor.

What's the doctor's phone number? (585) 486-0901