



Greenville Ear, Nose & Throat

Narcotic Use in Young Children

You may have seen recent reports of young children dying after taking narcotics. These events have occurred despite recommended dosing. Such deaths are thought to be caused by a genetic variation of a liver enzyme, which leads to hyper-metabolism of narcotics. The result is narcotic overdose and respiratory suppression.

Our practice has not had such an event in 20 years. However, because of these reports, our doctors have decided to stop using narcotics in children under 6 years old.

Studies have shown that the combined use of Tylenol (acetaminophen) and Advil (ibuprofen) is as effective as narcotics in young children. Here are recommendations for post-operative pain control in children less than 6 years of age:

Weight (lbs.)	Acetaminophen (160mg/5ml) 15 mg/kg a dose 5 doses a day	Ibuprofen (100 mg/5 ml) 10 mg/kg a dose 2 doses a day
	Every 4 hours (ml)	Every 8 hours (ml)
10-15	2 ml	2.5 ml
16-20	3.5	3.5
21-25	4.5	4.5
26-30	5.5	6.0
31-35	6.5	7.0
36-40	7.5	8.0
41-45	8.5	9.0
46-50	9.5	10.5
51-55	10.5	11.5
56-60	11.5	12.5
61-65	12.5	13.5
66-70	13.5	15