



Tonsillectomy/Adenoidectomy Pain Management Instructions

Vocabulary

Motrin = Advil = ibuprofen

Tylenol = acetaminophen

Lortab = acetaminophen with hydrocodone (a narcotic pain medicine)

Motrin

Motrin is to be given every 6 hours for the first 5 days. This includes **waking your child up** at night for a dose of Motrin. If your child is still taking Motrin on days 7-10, when the scabs come off, there is a slightly increased chance of bleeding that would require a return trip to the operating room. Therefore, we recommend stopping the Motrin after 5 days.

Lortab

Lortab can be given as often as every 4 hours if needed for pain.

- Lortab contains Tylenol. If you give your child plain Tylenol you must wait at least 4 hours before giving Lortab or there is a risk of overdosing your child on Tylenol.
- Lortab is a completely different medicine than Motrin; therefore, they can be given closely together if needed for pain control.
- Lortab may cause nausea and vomiting. To decrease this risk, it is better if given after eating or drinking. If your child continues to have nausea or vomiting the use of Cherry Mylanta (as directed on the bottle) before or with the Lortab may improve their symptoms.
- Lortab can be given for as many days as needed to help control the pain.

Recommend:

- During the first 5 days while your child is taking Motrin, alternate the Motrin with the Lortab while your child is awake. Give Lortab – wait 3 hours – Give Motrin – wait 3 hours Give Lortab – etc...
- After day 5 when your child is no longer taking Motrin, you can then give the Lortab as often as every 4 hours if needed for pain.

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