

# Over The Counter Drugs

## Dosage & Side Effects of: aspirin, acetaminophen, naproxen & ibuprofen

**Bayer Aspirin:** Plus The Life Saving Benefits of Aspirin

325mg per tablet, 1 or 2 every 6 hrs, Not to exceed 12 in 24 hrs.

**What are the possible side effects of aspirin?** If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking aspirin and seek medical attention or call a doctor immediately: an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of throat; swelling of lips, tongue, or face; or hives), black, bloody, or tarry stools, nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain, uncontrolled fever, blood in your urine or vomit, decreased hearing or ringing in the ears, seizures, dizziness, confusion, or hallucinations.

If you experience any of the following less serious side effects, notify a doctor: heartburn or indigestion faint ringing in the ears, drowsiness, headache.

**Aspirin. Adverse Reactions:** Tinnitus, hearing loss, nausea, GI distress, occult bleeding, GI bleeding, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, dyspepsia, prolonged bleeding time, hepatitis, rash, bruising, urticaria, angioedema, hypersensitivity & Reye's Syndrome. Reye's Syndrome- Acute encephalopathy, fatty infiltration of liver & possibly pancreas, heart, kidney, spleen & lymph nodes. Children < 15 after acute viral infection. Mortality rate as high as 80%.

**Acetaminophen Adverse Reactions:** Hemolytic anemia, neutropenia, leukopenia, pancytopenia, severe liver damage, jaundice, hypoglycemia, rash & urticaria.

**Excedrin:** Acetaminophen 250mg per tablet, Aspirin 250mg per tablet, Caffeine 65mg per tablet  
2 every 6 hrs, Not to exceed 8 in 24 hrs.

**Extra Strength Tylenol:** Acetaminophen 500mg per tablet, 2 every 4-6 hrs, Not to exceed 8 in 24 hrs.

**What are the possible side effects of acetaminophen?** If you experience any of the following rare but serious side effects, stop taking acetaminophen and seek emergency medical attention or contact your doctor immediately: allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of throat; swelling of lips, tongue, or face; or hives), liver damage (yellowing of skin or eyes, nausea, abdominal pain or discomfort, unusual bleeding or bruising, severe fatigue), blood problems (easy or unusual bleeding or bruising).

**Aleve:** Naproxen 200mg per tablet, 1 every 8-12 hrs, Not to exceed 3 in 24 hrs.

**What are the possible side effects of naproxen?** Contact a doctor if you experience blood in vomit or bloody, black, or tarry stools. These symptoms could indicate damage to stomach or intestines, which could be dangerous. If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking naproxen and seek medical treatment or contact your doctor immediately: an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of throat; swelling of lips, tongue, or face; or hives), muscle cramps, numbness, or tingling, ulcers (open sores) in mouth, rapid weight gain (fluid retention), seizures, decreased hearing or ringing in ears, yellowing of your skin or eyes (jaundice), abdominal cramping, heartburn, or indigestion.

Continue to take naproxen and talk to a doctor if you experience: dizziness or headache, nausea, diarrhea, or constipation, depression, fatigue or weakness, dry mouth, irregular menstrual periods  
Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

**Advil & Motrin:** Ibuprofen 200mg per tablet, 1 every 4-6 hrs, Not to exceed 6 in 24 hrs.

**What are the possible side effects of ibuprofen?** Contact a doctor if you experience blood in vomit or bloody, black, or tarry stools. These symptoms could indicate damage to the stomach or intestines, which could be dangerous. If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking ibuprofen and seek medical attention or contact your doctor immediately: allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of throat; swelling of lips, tongue, or face; or hives), muscle cramps, numbness, or tingling, ulcers (open sores) in mouth, rapid weight gain (fluid retention), seizures, decreased hearing or ringing in ears, yellowing of skin and eyes (jaundice), abdominal cramping, indigestion, or heartburn.

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take ibuprofen and talk to a doctor if you experience: dizziness or headache, nausea, gaseousness, diarrhea, or constipation, depression, fatigue or weakness, dry mouth, irregular menstrual periods. Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

**Ibuprofen. Adverse Reactions:** Dizziness, headache, nervousness, aseptic meningitis, insomnia, peripheral edema, tinnitus, nausea, occult blood loss, peptic ulceration, diarrhea, constipation, dyspepsia flatulence, heart burn, loss of appetite, acute renal failure, azotemia & cystitis. Hematuria, ↑ BUN, ↑ creatinine levels, ↑ bleeding times, anemia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia, aplastic anemia, leukopenia, agranulocytosis, ↑ liver enzymes, bronchospasm, pruritus, rash, urticaria.

**Hydrocortisone & Prednisone. Adverse Reactions:** Euphoria, insomnia, psychotic behavior, pseudotumor cerebri, vertigo, headache, paresthesia, seizures, heart failure, hypertension, edema, arrhythmias, thrombophlebitis, thromboembolism, cataracts, glaucoma, peptic ulceration & GI irritation. ↑ appetite, pancreatitis, nausea, vomiting, menstrual irregularities, ↑ urine calcium levels, hyperglycemia, carbohydrate intolerance, hypercholesterolemia, hypocalcemia, muscle weakness, osteoporosis, delayed wound healing, acne & acute adrenal insufficiency. After abrupt withdrawal: inflammation, fatigue weakness, arthralgia, fever, dizziness, lethargy, depression, fainting, orthostatic hypotension, dyspnea, anorexia, hypoglycemia & death.