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Dental Pain Management

Dental pain can usually be managed by over-the-counter medications such as Ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) and Acetaminophen (Tylenol). It is important to note that some patients are unable to take one or both of these medications. Please contact your pharmacist, physician, or our office if you have any questions. All medications should be taken with food unless you are instructed otherwise. The following regimen is recommended for dental pain management:

1. Ibuprofen 800 mg every 6-8 hours (four 200 mg over-the-counter tablets; or, you may have been prescribed this dose in a single tablet of Motrin 800 mg)
2. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 500 mg every 4-6 hours
3. It is recommended you alternate medications to achieve maximum relief. Example:
8:00 am Ibuprofen 800 mg + Acetaminophen 500 mg
12:00 pm Acetaminophen 500 mg
4:00 pm Ibuprofen 800 mg + Acetaminophen 500 mg
8:00 pm Acetaminophen 500 mg
...Etc.
4. **IT IS SAFE** to combine NSAID medications (Ibuprofen/Advil/Motrin or Naproxen/Aleve) **WITH** a pain reliever like Acetaminophen/Tylenol.
5. **IT IS NOT SAFE** to combine NSAID medications such as Ibuprofen and Aleve.

If you were prescribed a narcotic medication (such as Vicodin or Percocet):

1. These drugs are narcotics and you should not attempt to drive, operate heavy machinery, or sign legal documents while taking this medication.
2. Do not drink alcohol or take any other medication that may have a sedative effect while taking this medication.
3. These medications contain Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and should **not** be combined with over-the-counter Tylenol. Take **either** your prescription narcotic or over-the-counter Tylenol for that dose.
4. **IT IS SAFE** to combine narcotic medications containing Acetaminophen with Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) **OR** Naproxen (Aleve).

Maximum Doses in 24 Hours: Ibuprofen 3200 mg Acetaminophen 3000 mg