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Dental Pain Management

The management of dental pain can usually be controlled by over-the-counter medications, such as Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) and Acetaminophen (Tylenol). The following regimen is recommended for dental pain management:

1. Ibuprofen 800mg every 8 hours (four 200-mg over-the-counter tablets; alternatively, your dentist may prescribe this dose for you as “Motrin 800mg”)
2. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 500mg every 4-6 hours
3. It is recommended to alternate your medication for maximum pain relief. Example:
 - a. 8:00am Ibuprofen 800mg + Acetaminophen 500mg
 - b. 12:00pm Acetaminophen 500mg
 - c. 4:00pm Ibuprofen 800mg + Acetaminophen 500mg
 - d. 8:00pm Acetaminophen 500mg...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 your dentist 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. These medications contain Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and should **not** be combined with plain/over-the-counter Tylenol. Take **either** your prescription narcotic **or** Tylenol for that dose.
3. **IT IS SAFE** to combine narcotic medications containing Acetaminophen with Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) **OR** Naproxen (Aleve).

*If you have questions, ask your dentist, pharmacist, or call the office for clarification.

**Please note that it is best to take all medications with food, unless you are instructed otherwise.

Maximum Doses in 24 hours:

Ibuprofen 3200mg

Acetaminophen 3000mg