

Summer 2005

A Complimentary Publication

Tylenol Toxicity



Most people think of acetaminophen (the generic name for Tylenol) as a safe and benign medication that can be taken for headaches and mild aches and pains. But acetaminophen can be toxic to your liver if too much is taken. The maximum daily dosage for acetaminophen is 4 grams. This may seem like a lot but two regular strength Tylenol are 500mg. Many other pain medications and over-the-counter cold remedies also contain acetaminophen, such as Excedrin, Darvocet-N 100, Lortab, Lorcet, Vicodin, Midrin, Tylenol #3 and Percocet, so these must also be taken into account so as not to exceed the 4 gram maximum. For chronic use and in some elderly, the daily dose should not exceed 3 grams.

Certain drug interactions and medical conditions also increase the dangers of acetaminophen use. Anticonvulsants, such as Dilantin, and Isoniazid, used in the treatment of tuberculosis, may increase acetaminophen toxicity. People with liver diseases, such as hepatitis and cirrhosis and chronic, excessive alcohol consumption are also at increased risk for acetaminophen toxicity.

The most serious consequences of excessive acetaminophen ingestion are liver and kidney damage, coma and low platelets. The usual antidote for acetaminophen toxicity, N-acetylcysteine, is best given within 8 hours of ingestion. Activated charcoal is also given to absorb the acetaminophen. ❖

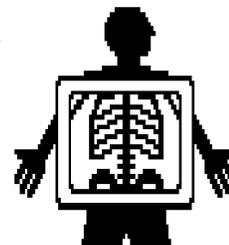
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Wrongful Birth Lawsuit

The Ohio Lawyers Weekly reported that the 1st District Court of Appeals found that a couple whose child was born with severe mental and physical defects and brought a suit against their doctor for wrongful birth, claiming "they were entitled to consequential and economic damages for raising their disabled child over and above ordinary child-rearing expenses. The couple claimed the trial court erred in dismissing their medical malpractice claim because, due to negligent medical advice and testing, they were precluded from making an informed decision about whether to proceed with the pregnancy. The 1st District agreed."

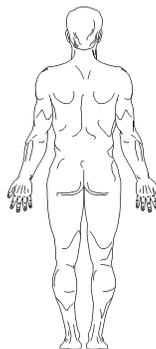
Source: <http://www.ohlawyersweekly.com> ❖

Orthopedic Terminology

Have you ever tried to read orthopedic or rehab exams or physical therapy records? These definitions may help you decipher the records.

BODY MOVEMENTS

1. Extension- movement that draws two body parts away from each other.
2. Flexion- movement that draws two body parts closer together.
3. Dorsiflexion-backward bending of hand or foot (ie. toes toward head)
4. Plantar Flexion- forward bending of hand or foot (ie. pointing toe).
5. Supination- turning upward of palm of hand.
6. Pronation- turning palm of hand backward or downward.
7. Abduction- drawing AWAY from body.
8. Adduction- drawing toward the body.



2. Grade 4 or 4/5 strength (good)- can hold or move body part against gravity with minimum to moderate resistance
3. Grade 3 or 3/5 (fair)- can hold or move body part against gravity only. Can lift body part off bed, but not push or pull with any resistance.
 4. Grade 2 or 2/5 strength (poor)- can move body part through range of motion against gravity with support or assistance.
 5. Grade 1 or 1/5 (trace)- cannot move body part at all, but some muscle contraction can be felt.
 6. Grade 0 or 0/5- no evidence of muscle contraction.

GRADING SYSTEM FOR TENDON REFLEXES

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
0	0	Absent
1	+	Diminished but present
2	++	Normal, average
3	+++	Normal but brisker than average, may or may not indicate pathology
4	++++	Hyperactive; very brisk, most often pathologic
5	+++++	Hyperactive with clonus [rapid contraction and relaxation of muscle]

MUSCLE TESTING

When testing for muscle strength, one of the scales frequently use is:

1. Grade 5 or 5/5 strength (normal)- can hold or move body part against gravity and maximum resistance. An example would be that the person can lift their arm up in the air (against gravity) and push and pull against maximum resistance.

Source: Medical Legal Quick Tips, 2000. Reprinted with permission of MedLeague Support Services. ❖



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