

Giving Your Child Pain Medication After Surgery

Why am I giving my child pain medications?

After surgery, your child may be in pain. Medications may not be able to make all their pain go away, but they may help reduce their pain.

What kind of medications will I give my child?

We will prescribe your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and ibuprofen (Motrin®) for pain control. The medication doses we prescribe are based on your child's weight. Each medication works differently in the body to reduce pain, so we want you to give your child both medications at the same time. They actually work better together!

How often should I give my child the pain medications?

You should give them Tylenol® and Motrin® together (at the same time) every 6 hours. Follow this schedule for at least the first 2-3 days after surgery. You do not have to wake your sleeping child to give them pain medication, but during the day while they are awake, please give them these medications every 6 hours.

What if Tylenol® and Motrin® are not enough to manage their pain?

- We may also give your child a stronger pain medication called oxycodone. You should use only use this medication in small amounts, and only if your child is still in pain after taking the other 2 medications.
- You can try distracting your child from their pain by letting your child watch a show or play on an iPad for a little while, especially during painful procedures like dressing changes.

- You can also try using ice packs for pain relief. We recommend using ice packs for no longer than 20 minutes at a time, and then giving the skin 20 minutes without ice to rest. Do not use ice packs while your child is sleeping. Please use a towel or ice pack holder to prevent putting the ice packs directly on your child's skin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (734) 998-6022 or send us a message through the online patient portal ([MyUofMHealth.org](https://myuofmhealth.org)).

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