Ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®) Cardiology

Ibuprofen (eye byoo PRO fen) is the generic name for Motrin® or Advil®. This medicine belongs to a group of drugs called NSAID’s (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Other brand names for this medicine are Pediaprofen® and Nuprin®.

This medicine is used to treat mild to moderate pain, inflammation, and fever. It may also be used to prevent post-pericardiotomy syndrome (PPS) after heart surgery. PPS is a reaction in the body that can cause fever and build-up of unwanted fluid around the lungs and heart.

At first, your child may be given another NSAID called Toradol® (ketorolac) by IV for 2 days after surgery. Then, your child may start taking ibuprofen by mouth. Ibuprofen should be given for 7 to 8 days as ordered by the doctor.

How to give this medicine

- Read the label carefully. Make sure you are giving your child the right dose. It is easy to confuse the many different dosage forms and strengths.
- Give the exact dose of medicine that the doctor ordered.
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- If this medicine is a liquid, shake it before using it.
- Use a pediatric measuring device (available at the pharmacy) or a measuring spoon to measure the exact dose (Picture 1). Do not measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.
- This medicine should be given with food.
- It is very important to finish all the medicine that is ordered. Do not stop the medicine early, even if your child is feeling better. Do not change doses or stop the medicine without talking to your child’s doctor.

Picture 1 Use a pediatric measuring device for liquid medicines.
If you forget to give a dose

If you forget to give a dose of this medicine, give it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, do not give the missed dose at all. Do not double the next dose. Instead, go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you have any questions about this, check with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

If a dose is vomited

- If your child gags or chokes and spits out the dose before swallowing it, let the child calm down. Then, give the same amount one more time.
- Even if the medicine is thrown up (vomited) right after giving it, some of the medicine may still be in the stomach. Do not repeat the dose unless all the liquid that was given was seen.

Medicine storage

- Store all medicine out of the reach of children.
- Always keep medicine in the original bottle from the pharmacy.
- Do not keep this medicine in the refrigerator. Store it at room temperature.
- Keep this medicine away from heat or direct sunlight.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiration date printed on the container.
- When the medicine is no longer needed, mix the leftover medicine with an unwanted material, like coffee grounds. Then, put the mixture into a container or a bag that will not leak. Throw the container away in the trash where children and pets cannot reach it.

Drug – Nutrient interactions

- Do not give over-the-counter medicines, like acetaminophen, aspirin, antacids, or cold medicines, without checking with your child’s doctor or pharmacist first.
- If your child is taking any other medicine or herbal supplements, tell the doctor and pharmacist. Certain medicines should not be taken with ibuprofen.

Warning

- If your child is allergic to ibuprofen, aspirin, or any other NSAID, he or she should not take this medicine.
Warning, continued

- You may get information from the pharmacy about the risk of heart problems when a person takes this medicine. It is better for your child to take this medicine for a short while than to get sick with PPS.

- There is also a risk your child’s stomach can bleed while taking this medicine. This is more likely if your child has had ulcers or bleeding problems or takes a blood thinner or other medicines that can hurt the stomach. Your child should always take ibuprofen with food, milk, or formula.

- Your child may get skin reactions, which may be severe. Contact your child’s doctor at the first sign of redness on the skin and a rash.

Possible side effects

- Heartburn
- Vomiting
- Change in kidney function
- Nausea
- Bleeding easily
- Severe skin rash

What to do about side effects

- If a skin rash happens, stop giving the medicine and call your child's doctor.
- If your child has an upset stomach or vomits because of this medicine, remember to give it with food, milk or formula.

When to call for emergency help

Call for emergency help if your child has any of these signs of an allergic reaction:

- Trouble breathing
- Swelling of the tongue, hands, feet, or ankles.

When to call the doctor

Call your child's doctor if any of the following occur:

- Bloody or black tarry stools
- Severe stomach pain
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding
- If your child has fever 102°F or higher.
- Spitting up blood or “coffee-ground” material
- If your child is having any side effects that continue or are very bothersome.
Other advice about the medicine

- Ask the pharmacist for 2 labeled bottles if your daycare provider will be giving this medicine.
- If your child has trouble taking medicine, ask your nurse for Helping Hands HH-V-28, *Medications: How to Give by Mouth*, and HH-I-4, *Allergy to Medicines*.
- Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist if your child has a strange or allergic reaction to any medicine.
- If you carry medicine in your purse, keep it in its childproof bottle. Keep your purse out of the reach of children.
- Bring all of your child's medicines with you in the original bottles whenever your child sees a doctor, goes to an emergency room, or is admitted to the hospital. This helps doctors who may not know your child.
- Learn the name, spelling, and dose of this medicine. Also, teach your child if he is old enough. You will need to know this information when you call the doctor or pharmacist.
- **If your child takes too much of this medicine, or if someone else takes this medicine, first call the Central Ohio Poison Center** at 1-800-222-1222 (TTY 614-228-2272). They will tell you what to do.
- Do not stop giving this medicine or change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor or pharmacist. The inflammation and fluid around the heart and lungs may not be gone.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine for your child only. Do not give it to anyone else.
- When your child goes to the dentist, be sure to tell the dentist your child is taking this medicine and why.
- Tell your child's teacher, school nurse, coach, babysitter, and others that your child is taking this medicine. Tell them what side effects to watch for.
- Your child's school will need a note from you and from the doctor if the medicine is to be given at school by the school nurse.

Follow-up visits

- If you have any questions, be sure to ask your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.
- Write down all of your questions as you think of them. Bring this list with you when you see the doctor.
- Be sure to call your doctor if you cannot keep the appointment.