Acetaminophen

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: not named on the page; described as producing antipyresis via the hypothalamus

May work peripherally to block pain impulse generation; may inhibit prostaglandin synthesis in the CNS

Like NSAIDs, inhibits COX-1 and COX-2 — it does not bind COX-1 or COX-2, but reduces activity of the COX pathway

Prostaglandin plays a role in CNS pain transmission and temperature control

USE IT FOR

- Pain and fever (>100 oral or rectal) relief
- Only when ibuprofen has been ineffective or was administered in the last 6 hours

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Hypersensitivity to the drug
- Severe hepatic dysfunction
- Precautions: impaired renal function; history of chronic alcohol use

DOSE

Adult: **15 mg/kg PO**

Peds: **15 mg/kg PO (weight-based, as written on the page)**

Repeat: **Only if acetaminophen has not been given in the last 4 hours**

WATCH FOR

- Nausea
- Rash
- Dizziness

PEARLS

- Do not give if acetaminophen has been given in the last 4 hours

Take Home Message:

Acetaminophen 15 mg/kg PO is for pain and fever when ibuprofen has failed or was given within 6 hours.