



NAPROXEN

DRUG INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

WHY IS NAPROXEN PRESCRIBED?

Naproxen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It is prescribed to help reduce the swelling, stiffness and pain associated with arthritis.

HOW IS NAPROXEN TAKEN?

Naproxen is prescribed as a tablet twice a day. It should always be taken with a meal or snack to prevent stomach upset.

HOW DOES NAPROXEN WORK?

Naproxen works by reducing the production of prostaglandins. Prostaglandins are chemicals released as part of inflammation which occurs in arthritis.

HOW WILL I KNOW NAPROXEN IS WORKING?

Naproxen does not cure arthritis, but reduces the swelling, stiffness and pain, and may prevent joint damage. Your child should notice an improvement in these symptoms gradually. This improvement may be noticed in a few days, however it is usual for it to take up to 8 weeks before the medication is completely effective.

HOW LONG WILL MY CHILD TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This is variable. Generally naproxen is used for long-term treatment, which means it may be prescribed for a year or longer. In order to maintain control of the arthritis, this medication must not be stopped, even if symptoms have resolved, unless directed by the physician.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS?

Below is a list of the most common side effects. If your child complains of any of these or any other unusual symptoms, notify your physician/clinic nurse.

- ❖ stomach pains, nausea, vomiting, or constipation
- ❖ bloody or black stools
- ❖ easy bruising, bleeding gums, nose bleeds
- ❖ skin rash, hives, or itching.
- ❖ A blistering skin rash, usually over the bridge of the nose or cheeks, or over the back of the hands. This rash is called pseudoporphyria. It is more common in children who have freckles, and blond or red-blond hair. It is reversible if the medication is stopped
- ❖ trouble breathing, shortness of breath
- ❖ behavioral changes such as irritability, difficulty concentrating

PRECAUTIONS WHILE TAKING NAPROXEN

Please tell your doctor and pharmacist about any other medications your child is taking. This includes prescription and non-prescription (or naturopathic) treatments. Report any unusual symptoms to the doctor or nurse, even if you are not sure whether or not they are related to the

naproxen.

If your child develops any of the following, stop the naproxen and contact rheumatology nurse.

Resume when taking adequate fluids and solid food.

- ❖ diarrhea
- ❖ vomiting
- ❖ a persistent high fever
- ❖ blood in stool

Do not take (Ibuprofen, Advil, Motrin) Aspirin (ASA), or ASA containing drugs while taking Naproxen. Use plain acetaminophen (Tylenol or Tempra) to control pain and fever, when necessary.

For any concerns or questions, contact Rheumatology nurse
If urgent call rheumatologist on call@ 604-875-2161

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