



Medicines
safety is
everyone's role

Paracetamol... ... is 1g four times a day suitable for all adults?

Question: What dose should be prescribed for a 43Kg adult patient with normal renal function?





Answer: No, check weight (don't estimate), renal function and other hepatology risk factors



- Low weight is a significant risk factor for paracetamol hepatotoxicity
- Deaths from paracetamol toxicity have been reported in patients under 50Kg prescribed 1g four times a day
- Regularly check for any weight loss changes in patients

Use dry weight	Oral Dosing (PO)	Maximum daily dose	Comments
≤ 40 Kg	500 mg FOUR times daily	2 g	eGFR less than 30ml/min/1.73m ² , minimum interval is 6 hours.
41 Kg to 49 Kg	500 mg – 1 g THREE times daily	3 g	eGFR less than 30ml/min/1.73m ² minimum interval is 6 hours.
≥ 50 Kg	500 mg – 1 g FOUR times daily	4 g	eGFR less than 30ml/min/1.73m ² minimum interval is 6 hours. 1 g QDS PO is safe for (≤ 7 days) If needed regularly(> 7 days) reduce dose.

Risk factors for hepatotoxicity with paracetamol

- Dry body weight under 50 kg
- Elderly/frail
- Renal insufficiency
- Decompensated liver disease
- Chronic malnutrition
- Chronic dehydration
- Cachexia
- Chronic alcohol consumption or regular consumption of alcohol in excess of recommended amounts
- Long-term treatment with liver enzyme-inducing drugs e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin, primidone, rifampicin, phenobarbital, St John's Wort or others that induce liver enzymes.