**Side-Effects**

All medicines can have side effects. There will be an information leaflet in each box of medicines that you are given to explain these fully. The following chart lists some of the more common side effects caused by the medicines mentioned in this leaflet.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Medicine** | **Common side-effects** |
| Paracetamol | Side-effects are rare. Some patients may develop a rash |
| Codeine and Tramadol | Nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick), constipation, dry mouth, mood changes, dizziness, confusion, rashes |
| Ibuprofen and Naproxen | Stomach pain which may lead to bleeding and ulceration, nausea, rashes, headache. |
| Tinzaparin | Bruising.  See separate tinzaparin leaflet |
| Cyclizine | Dry mouth, muscle spasm. |
| Ondansetron | Headache, constipation, flushing, irritation at injection site |
| Senna | Skin rash, stomach cramps |
| Sodium docusate | Skin rash, stomach cramps |

**What If I Cannot Take Some Of The Medicines?**

If you are allergic to any of the medicines you should discuss this with the pharmacist, doctor or nurse and where possible an alternative medicine will be prescribed.

**Sources of Information**

More detailed information is available within patient information leaflet. The pharmacy team visit the wards regularly and are happy to answer any questions you or your family have about these medicines. If you think of a question after you have left hospital your community pharmacist may also be able to answer any questions you may have.



**Medicines Information for Patients Undergoing Surgical Procedures**



Issued by Pharmacy Department

**Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

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**Will My Medicines Change Following Surgery?**

You may be prescribed some new medicines following surgery. Some are to help reduce pain and some are to reduce the risk of complications following surgery. There may also be some temporary changes to your regular medicine which you will be informed about.

**Which Medicines Will I Be Prescribed For Pain?**

**PARACETAMOL**

All patients will be given Paracetamol regularly and you will need to take **TWO** tablets **FOUR** times a day. If you already take any other medicines containing Paracetamol (e.g. Co-Codamol or some Cold Remedies) please speak to the pharmacist, nurses or doctor.

**Opiate Pain Relief**

**CODEINE or TRAMADOL**

Some patients may require Codeine or Tramadol. These are pain killers which you can take along with your Paracetamol. The dose is **ONE or** **TWO** tablets (or capsules) **FOUR** times a day. We usually advise patients that they will need to take them for about FIVE days. If you are still having considerable pain beyond this time you should speak to your GP.

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**Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)**

**IBUPROFEN**

This is a pain killer which reduces inflammation. The dose is **ONE** 200mg or 400mg tablet **THREE** times each day. It should be taken with or after food. If you are already taking other NSAIDs you will NOT be given Ibuprofen.

**NAPROXEN**

This is a pain killer which reduces inflammation. The dose is **ONE** 500mg tablet **TWICE** each day. It should be taken with or after food. If you are already taking other anti-inflammatory NSAIDs you will NOT be given Naproxen.

**Which Medicines Will I Be Given To Reduce The Risk Of Complications?**

**Low Molecular Weight Heparin (TINZAPARIN)**

This is a medicine given by subcutaneous injection which reduces the risk of blood clots following surgery. There is a separate leaflet which you will be given to explain this in more detail.

**Anti-Sickness Medicines (CYCLIZINE & ONDANSETRON)**

Some patients can feel sick after surgery. If this happens you will have anti-sickness medicines prescribed. Patients do not usually need these medicines when they go home.

**Laxatives (SENNA & DOCUSATE)**

Some patients may become constipated after surgery. This can be a side-effect of the opiate pain relief medicines. You may be prescribed a laxative to help treat this problem. The normal dose for Senna is TWO tablets at night and the normal dose for Docusate is TWO capsules TWICE daily.