

Patient Instructions: Celecoxib (Celebrex®) Use after Tonsillectomy or Adenoidectomy

These instructions are for caregivers of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) patients who have been prescribed celecoxib after tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy.

Important information about Celebrex:

- Celecoxib (Celebrex) is a safe and effective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) similar to Ibuprofen (Motrin).
- Your surgeon has prescribed Celebrex for your child's pain following tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy surgery. It is given 2 times a day, often along with other pain relievers such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol).

Instructions for giving Celebrex:

- Give the Celebrex twice a day (12 hours apart), every day for up to 10 days. Your nurse will tell you when to give your child the next dose.
- If your surgeon prescribed Tylenol, we also recommend giving Tylenol every 4 hours as needed, at least for the first 5 days or longer depending on pain symptoms. You may need to give it up to 14 days after surgery.
- If your surgeon prescribed Dexamethasone, we recommend giving Dexamethasone 48 to 72 hours after surgery if the other pain treatments (Celebrex and Tylenol or Motrin and Tylenol) do not relieve your child's pain.
- **Do not** give any other NSAIDs such as Motrin, Naproxen, Aleve, or Aspirin with this medicine.



Converting capsule to liquid:

1. Open the capsule(s) and sprinkle contents into the medicine cup provided by the pharmacy.
2. Using syringe included, add a total of 5mL of water or **clear** juice into the medicine cup.
3. Stir until nearly dissolved.
4. Your child may drink the medicine right out of the cup or you may squirt it into their mouth with the syringe.
5. Have your child take a sip of water after taking the medicine.

What are possible side effects of Celebrex?

- Constipation, diarrhea, stomach pain
- Heartburn or gas
- Dizziness or headache
- Signs of common cold
- Nose or throat irritation

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The Morning of Surgery: One hour before you arrive at the surgical center

1. Open the capsule(s), mix with a total of 5mL of water or **clear** juice and give to your child.
2. Have your child swallow the medicine with a small amount of water.
3. **Do not** give with food on the morning of surgery.

After Surgery

1. **Do not** give on an empty stomach. Give with food or milk.
2. Open the capsule(s) and sprinkle contents over 1 teaspoon of pudding or yogurt. Follow with a sip of water.
3. Or have your child swallow the capsule(s) whole with water if able.

When can I stop giving the Celebrex medicine?

If your child is pain free and back to a normal diet and activity for 24 hours, it is okay to stop taking the Celebrex.

Call the office at 215-590-3440 for the following reasons:

- If the pharmacy has problems filling the medicine.
- If you notice your child develops a rash, especially on the chest or back.
- If your child refuses the medicine.