

REYE'S SYNDROME

NATIONAL REYE'S SYNDROME FOUNDATION, PO BOX 829, Bryan, Ohio 43506
Or call 419/636-2679 - Toll Free 1-800-233-7393

Reye's Syndrome is a very serious disease. Reye's Syndrome usually affects people from infancy through young adulthood; however, no age group is immune. Although Reye's generally occurs when someone is recovering from a viral illness, such as flu or chickenpox, it can develop 3 to 5 days after the onset of the illness. Its main targets are the liver and brain, it is non-contagious, and too often it is misdiagnosed as encephalitis, meningitis, diabetes, poisoning, drug overdose or sudden infant death.

Early diagnosis is crucial. An individual should be watched during the two to three weeks following a viral illness for these symptoms, usually occurring in this order:

- Relentless or continuous vomiting
- Listlessness (loss of pep and energy with little interest in their environment)
- Drowsiness (excessive sleepiness)
- Personality change (such as irritability, slurred speech, sensitivity to touch)
- Disorientation or confusion (unable to identify whereabouts, family members or answer questions)
- Combativeness (striking out at those trying to help)
- Delirium, convulsions or loss of consciousness

Reye's Syndrome should be suspected in anyone who vomits repeatedly. Seek medical attention immediately. Two liver function tests (SGOT, SGPT) can be done to determine the possibility of Reye's Syndrome. There is a 90% chance of recovery when the syndrome is treated in its earliest stages by physicians and nurses experienced in the treatment of Reye's.

Studies have shown that using aspirin or aspirin-containing medications to treat the symptoms of viral illnesses increases the chance of developing Reye's Syndrome. Anti-nausea medicines may mask the symptoms of Reye's Syndrome. The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation (NRSF), the U.S. Surgeon General, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control recommend that aspirin and combination products containing aspirin not be taken by anyone under 19 years of age during fever-causing illnesses.

Aspirin is a part of the salicylate family of medicines. Another name for aspirin is acetylsalicylate; some drug labels may use the words acetylsalicylate, acetylsalicylic acid, salicylic acid or salicylate instead of the word aspirin. Currently, there is no conclusive data as to whether other forms of salicylates are associated with the development of Reye's Syndrome. Until further research has answered this question, the NRSF recommends that products containing any of these substances should not be taken during episodes of viral infections.

Following is a sample listing of non-prescription and prescription preparations that

should be avoided. Products may be reformulated from time to time to add or remove ingredients. Always ask the physician or pharmacist before taking any medication and be sure never to exceed the recommended dosage.

Preparations Containing Aspirin (Acetylsalicylate)/Aspirin-Like Compounds)

NON-PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Manufacturer

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Manufacturer

Alka Seltzer Effervescent Antacid Regular, Extra Strength & Lemon Lime Pain Reliever

Miles

ACUPRIN 81 Adult Low Dose Aspirin

Alka-Seltzer Plus Cold Medicine, Cold & Cough, Night Time Cold Medicine

Miles

Aspirin 15gr Delayed Release

Tablets

Durnmed

Alka-Seltzer Plus Sinus Medicine

Miles

Axotal

Savage

Arthritis Foundation Safety

Coated Aspirin Tablets

McNeil

Azdone Tablets

Central

Ascriptin-Arthritis Pain, Regular,
& Maximum Strength Tablets

CIBA

Carlsoprodol & Aspirin Tablets

Por

Aspirin Tablets

Warner

Damason-P

Maron

BC Powder- Regular/Arthritis Strength
Block

Darvon Compound-65

Lilly

BC Cold Powder Multi-Symptom
& Non-Drowsy Formulas

Block

Disalcid Capsules & Tablets

3M

Bayer Children's Chewable Aspirin

Miles
Easprin
Parke-Davis
Genuine Bayer Aspirin & Extra
Strength Tablets & Caplets
Miles
Empirin with Codeine Tablets
Burroughs
Wellcome
Extra Strength Bayer Arthritis Pain
Regimen Formula
Miles
Equagesic Tablets
Wyeth
Extended-Release Bayer 8-Hr Aspirin
Miles
Florinal Capsules
Sandoz
Extra Strength Bayer Plus Aspirin
Caplets
Miles
Florinal with Codeine Capsules
Sandoz
Extra Strength Bayer PM Aspirin
Miles
Florinal Tablets
Sandoz
Aspirin Regimen Bayer Adult Low
Strength 81mg Tablets
Miles
Gelprin Tablets
Alsa
Aspirin Regimen Bayer Regular
Strength 325mg Caplets
Miles
Halfprin
Kramer
Bufferin Analgesic, Arthritis Strength, & Extra Strength Tablets & Caplets
Bristol Myers
Lortab ASA Tablets
Whitley
Cama Arthritis Pain Reliever
Sandoz
Methocarbamol/Aspirin Cap.
Por
Ecotrin Enteric Coated Aspirin

Regular, Maximum, & Adult
Low Strength Tablets & Caplets
SmithKline
Mono-Gesic Tablets
Central
Empirin Aspirin Tablets
Warner
Wellcome
Norgesic Forte Tablets
3M
Excedrin Extra-Strength Analgesic
Tablets & Caplets
Bristol Myers
Norgesic Tablets
3M
Healthprin Aspirin
Smart
PC-CAP Propoxyphene Hydrochl.Compound USP
Alta
St. Joseph Adult Chewable
Aspirin (81mg.)
Schering
Plough
Panasal 5/500 Tablets
ICR
Ursinus Inlay-Tbs
Sandoz
Percodan Tablets
DuPont
Vanquish Analgesic Caplets
Miles
Robaxisal Tablets
Robins
Roxlprin Tablets
Roxane
Salflex Tablets
Soma Compound Tablets
Wallace
Soma Compound/Codeine Tab.
Wallace
Synalogos-DC Capsules
Wyeth-Ayer
Talwin Compound
Sunoft
Winthrop

Nancy Dube
School Nurse Consultant
Department of Education
624-6694/Nancy.Dube@maine.gov