

Paracetamol Toxicity: A Review

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Abstract

One of the most important discoveries in field of medicine was synthesis of acetaminophen (Paracetamol) which is one of the most commonly used medications worldwide. Paracetamol which is commonly used as analgesic and antipyretic shows some strange and life threatening effects like liver damage which leads to fulminant liver failure and also death. Paracetamol is now the most common drug in self-poisoning, with a high rate of morbidity and mortality. Various steps are taken by regulatory authorities across the world to forestall the drug related toxicity. The recommendations for reducing the risk would be to educate the caregivers about the potential for toxicity. The dosing guidelines based on age and weight should be reviewed by the physician during each visit. The drug regulatory authority in India should respond immediately by taking an action that results in the decline of toxicity cases. In view of the potential for harm, serious consideration should be given to changing the legal status of Paracetamol, possibly to a prescription-only medicine.