

小兒用藥安全

Drug safety for children

Drug safety for children Oral dosages suitable for small children

Include Troches, capsules, powders, liquids, elixirs, syrups, solutions, and suspensions.

Health Education on Medicine use for children

1.Children are not small sized adults:

- (1)The stomach absorption: gastric peristalsis are slower in newborns and young children.
- (2)Liver metabolism: neonatal liver function only of at 20 to 40% of adults.
- (3)The kidneys excluded: neonatal renal is only about 30% of adults, will reach adult level after 1-year-old.
- (4)Skin absorption: high permeability of the skin of infants and young children, better absorption of topical medicines.

2.Is it more convenient for children grinded packed medicine?

- (1)Using grinded adult medicine may lead to easier contamination, less medicine stability, with shorter preservation period.
- (2)Mixing many types of medicine through grinding may lead to changes in medicine substance or create interaction, and inaccurate dosage in the packs.
- (3)Children that are older can practice swallowing or with small amount of food together.

3.Children's medication guides:

- (1)Not all medicine are suitable for grinding: may lead to easier contamination, less medicine stability, with shorter preservation period, with interactive effects.
- (2)Can ask doctors to prescribe specialty medicine designed for children, such as: Liquid preparations, syrups, solution agent, suspending agents.
- (3)Grinded packs should be taken all at once, to ensure quality of medicine.

4.Advice for using syrup or suspended liquids:

- (1)Unopened and sealed syrup or suspended liquids can be kept at room temperature.
- (2)Dry powder suspended liquid should be used during the first time by following instructions to add cold water and mixed evenly. Before taking medicine each time, they should be mixed and stirred evenly. Make sure the correct dosage amount is taken each time.



(3) Medicine that are unsealed and opened should be stored at room temperature or refrigerated according to instructions. Note the date of expiration.

5. Giving medicine to babies:

- (1) Use graduated pipette or oral syringe.
- (2) Hold on your lap and support the head of the baby.
- (3) Give only small amount of medicine each time to prevent choking.
- (4) Drip the medicine at the back side or edges of the oral cavity.
- (5) Pacify the baby while giving medicine.

6. Giving medicine to infants:

- (1) Let the infant choose the position of taking the medicine, and let the infant be familiar with the measuring tool.
- (2) If necessary, use small amount of food or beverage to hide the flavor and odor. After taking the medicine, drink water or beverages to eliminate the flavor and odor.
- (3) Give simple instructions or encourage for their cooperation.
- (4) If there is need of taking many types of medicine, let the infant choose the order of taking medicine.

7. Vomiting medicine by children:

If the children spit out the medicine after taking it, they must take it again. Usually choose those that are easiest to absorb such as: Syrup, liquid, or grinded. If it is already 10-15 minutes after taking the medicine, then there is no need to take again. The disintegration times for tablets are different and have different handling. If after vomiting, the pill is still intact, then it must be retaken. Otherwise, there is no need to retake medicine.