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Analgesics—Nonsteroidal Antiinflammatory, Nonopioid Analgesics, and Antipyretics

Patient name: _____ Admission: _____

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- I. **The client/caregiver can define purpose of nonopioid analgesic medication.**
 - A. Nonopioid analgesic medications include nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs and another group, including acetaminophen, aspirin, and ibuprofen.
 - B. Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are used for mild to moderate pain, especially when pain is from condition having inflammation.
 - C. Acetaminophen, aspirin, and ibuprofen are also used for the relief of mild to moderate pain. They also are very effective for reducing fevers.

- II. **The client/caregiver can list the advantages of the use of nonopioid analgesic medications.**
 - A. Acetaminophen, aspirin, and ibuprofen are available over the counter and are relatively inexpensive.
 - B. These can be taken orally and can be given in liquid form for children or others who are have difficulty swallowing.

- III. **The client/caregiver can list cautions when using these medications.**
 - A. Use extreme caution in giving aspirin to children or adolescents.
 - B. Use with caution for clients having long history of alcohol use.
 - C. Acetaminophen can appear in breast milk.
 - D. NSAIDs should be used with caution for clients with a history of bleeding disorders, gastric ulcers, and severe liver or kidney disease or during pregnancy.

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- IV. **The client/caregiver can list possible side effects when taking these medications.**
 - A. If taking high doses of these medications, monitor for symptoms of toxicity kidneys, such as frequent or painful urination. Also, bloody urine should be reported.
 - B. Allergic reactions to these drugs may produce a rash or itch.
 - C. Other undesired side effects would be nausea, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, dizziness, or drowsiness.

- V. **The client/caregiver can list important teaching facts when taking this class of drugs.**
 - A. Goals of the pain relief medication and how to classify level of pain.
 - B. Obtaining routine laboratory tests to monitor for liver or kidney damage.
 - C. Enteric-coated medication should not be crushed.
 - D. To decrease gastrointestinal symptoms, medication should be taken with food and plenty of fluids.

REFERENCES

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- Deglin, J. H., & Vallerand, A. H. (2001). *Davis's drug guide for nurses*. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company.
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