

PARACETAMOL AND ASTHMA



From the Asthma Foundation of NSW

Is it safe to give my child paracetamol?

There have been reports in the media recently of an association between the use of paracetamol and an increased risk of asthma and eczema in children and adolescents. The study from which these reports were drawn has suggested that paracetamol **might** be a risk factor for the development of childhood asthma. Further research is still required to decide whether paracetamol actually causes asthma in childhood or adolescence. The results could be coincidental, or it could be that children who develop these conditions have a greater tendency to have fevers when they are younger, which are then treated with paracetamol.

Paracetamol remains the preferred drug for pain relief and fever in children. However it is worthy to note that the World Health Organisation guidelines recommend paracetamol only be used in children with fever of 38.5°C or above.

Paracetamol remains the drug of choice for people with asthma due to the risk that aspirin or non steroidal anti-inflammatories such as naproxen and ibuprofen may trigger an asthma attack.

For further information phone 1800 645 130 or contact the Information Line at ask@asthmafoundation.org.au