Paracetamol is the most widely accepted medicine for the relief of pain and fever; these symptoms can diminish* within ten minutes of taking paracetamol. It can either be a medicine prescribed by a doctor or it can be purchased as an over-the-counter medicine in retail pharmacies.

Paracetamol and its combinations are mainly available as tablets for immediate consumption or for dissolving in water before consumption. They are suitable for most people including the elderly and young children and can be taken by people who are sensitive to aspirin or who are suffering from asthma.

Paracetamol in liquid form is particularly suitable for young children, and can be given to babies to treat the raised temperature that may follow immunization against usual childhood diseases. Paracetamol products can normally be used by pregnant women although it is wise to ask your doctor about taking any medicines at this time.

The recommended dosage of paracetamol in adults is two 500mg tablets every four to six hours, not exceeding eight tablets in any 24 hour period. This dosage may be continued for several days.

Children's dosages vary with the age of the child and the type of product, therefore the instructions on the pack should always be followed. In general, children's dosages are based on a single dose of 10mg paracetamol per kilogram bodyweight, which can be repeated 6 hourly, not exceeding four doses per 24 hours.

Glossary
diminish = to become less

Short-answer questions

Look at Section 1, Reading Text 1 below about paracetamol, a medicine often used to treat adults and children.

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

1 What does paracetamol reduce?

2 What is the best way for young children to take paracetamol?

3 After what treatment should young children take paracetamol?

4 Who should get a doctor's advice about taking paracetamol?

5 What is the maximum amount of paracetamol tablets an adult can safely take in 24 hours?

6 How often can a child safely take paracetamol?

LIVEWORKSHEETS