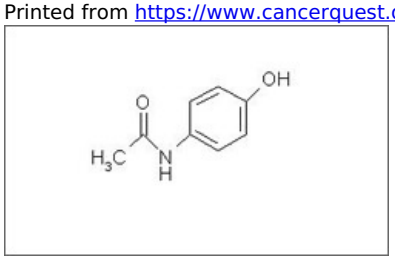
Acetaminophen

Printed from https://www.cancerquest.org/patients/drug-reference/acetaminophen on 11/21/2026



Brand name: Tylenol®
Brand name: Paracetamol®
IUPAC: N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethanamide
FDA approval: Yes
Manufacturer Link
Usage:

Acetaminophen is used for the treatment of mild pain and fever.

Mechanism:

The exact mechanism of action of acetaminophen is not completely understood. It selectively inhibits cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2). It is classified as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent but has only limited anti-inflammatory properties.

The diagram below shows the 3D molecular structure of Acetaminophen.

Stick Sphere Line Rotate

Side effects:

Side effects of acetaminophen are rare. However, extreme doses of acetaminophen or prolonged use can cause liver damage.