



**POST-OP CARE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT:  
STATUS POST TONSILLECTOMY, UPPP (UP3),  
AND ORAL CAVITY SURGERY**

You will be prescribed either a liquid or a pill analgesic. Typically pain medication that is taken by mouth has a faster onset of action. It also provides a stronger dosage of pain medication, however, sometimes after oral cavity procedures patients have difficulty swallowing and find it difficult to swallow pain medications by mouth. Thus, we offer several analgesic options in addition to oral pain medications.

**TETRACAINE LOLLIPOP**

This is a lollipop that releases the topical anesthetic agent that numbs everything that it comes in to contact with. The advantage of using a Tetracaine lollipop is that it can soothe the oral cavity allowing for relief that sometimes may then make swallowing a pill or liquid pain medication more manageable. The disadvantage of using a Tetracaine lollipop is that sometimes swallowing the topical lidocaine causes the pharynx to also become numb and this can give an unusual sensation that some patients find unpleasant to the back of the oral cavity.

**TOPICAL NARCOTIC PAIN CREAM**

This type of medication can be applied on thin parts of the skin such as the wrist, the neck, or the back of the knees. Topical narcotic pain medication should be given instead of a pill or liquid narcotic. Some patients are unable to tolerate liquids and this type of pain management allows for absorption of a narcotic pain medication through the skin.

The advantage of the cream is it allows pain relief without swallowing medication. The medication is absorbed through the skin. The disadvantage is that it is not as strong as taking the pill or the liquid form of the narcotic medication. If you are going to use the topical cream for pain management, please note that the cream comes in the same strength as the pill or liquid narcotic pain medication and thus, both can not be taken at the same time.

**The cream and liquid, or the pill should not be used at the same time.** If the cream form of pain medication is applied to the skin, one must wait 4 hours before taking the oral pain medication. If you were to take cream and the oral pain medication at the same time, this could possibly cause an overdose in pain medication dosage as they are both the same narcotic, just in different forms. The lollipop, however, can be used with either the cream or the pill.