Dosage Schedule for Antipyretic Combination Formulations: Correspondence

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To the Editor: When two or more drugs having similar action are administered simultaneously it may result in (i) increased or decreased absorption of the drugs, (ii) additive interaction, when effect of the two drugs equals the sum of the effect of each drug given alone, (iii) synergistic effect, where combined effect exceeds the sum of the effects of each drug given alone, (iv) antagonistic effect where one drug interferes with action of other drug, and (v) potentiation effect, where one drug leads to toxic effect from other drug [1]. Bioavailability, volume of distribution, clearance and elimination of different drugs may be different [2].

Paracetamol in combination with Ibuprofen and Mefenamic acid is available. I seek experts' advice regarding (i) the advantages of these combination formulations over single drug formulations *i.e.*, how do these drugs interact and (ii) how to calculate dosage and frequency of administration

of these combination formulations to provide optimum therapeutic effect with minimal potential risk, as paracetamol is administered at 15 mg/kg body weight per dose, ibuprofen is administered at 10–15 mg/kg per dose and mefenamic acid at 4–5 mg/kg per dose?

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