

TITLE 1: "Ask the Doctor"

TITLE 2:

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KEYWORDS:

- Pharmaceutical treatment

ABSTRACT OVERVIEW: A reader asks about the connection between Tylenol, ibuprofen and RLS.

COPY OF ARTICLE:

Q: Every time I take aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen, exactly 30 minutes later my RLS starts or gets much worse. Is there something in these medications that would perhaps block (or exacerbate blockage to) the receptors responsible to transport iron to the substantia nigra? Could there be a number of chemical and other factors that could block it, thus accounting for the wide differences from patient to patient as to what seems to bring on RLS and what seems to help control it?

A: The response of each individual with RLS to each type of medication may differ. Most RLS patients will not have worsening of their symptoms when taking aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol), or ibuprofen. There is no data to suggest that these drugs would block iron or its receptors. As we do not understand the changes in the brain that are causing RLS, it is impossible to know how the different drugs, including iron, have their effects.

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