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*Brand Names vs. Generic Pain Medication: Do You Get What You Pay For?*

Many people use generic pain medication because it is cheaper and is supposed to be the exact same as brand name medication according to the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). Dissolution rate is one conducted by the FDA in testing drug effectiveness. The brand name and generic versions of aspirin (Bayer), acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil) were dissolved in hydrochloric acid, timed, and compared to find out if there was a difference in the dissolution rates between the brand name and generic versions of each pain medication. The biggest difference in the time the pills took to dissolve was between Advil and its generic version and between Tylenol and its generic version. Tylenol was 100 percent dissolved after 10 minutes while the generic version was only 75 percent. Advil was 35 percent dissolved after 10 minutes while the generic version was 75 percent dissolved. The closest was between Bayer and its generic version. Bayer was 70 percent dissolved while the generic version was 75 percent dissolved after 10 minutes.