Explosive Tylenol?

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A nurse asked for more information about explosive Tylenol™. I had not read that display in its entirety, so I took a trip downstairs to look at this exhibit.The photo shows explosives researcher, post-doc John Yeager, indeed examining a Tylenol crystal. Tylenol, the medication (also known as acetaminophen), has a crystalline structure similar to the structure of many crystalline high explosives, *but is not itself explosive*. Scientists at Los Alamos who study explosives can substitute Tylenol for safety reasons in some experiments. Thank you for bringing this to my attention, I had no idea.

On the other hand, Alfred Nobel (the inventor of dynamite) suffered from terrible headaches possibly brought about by his contact with nitroglycerine[1], and he died of heart disease[2]. His nitroglycerine is the same nitroglycerine used as heart medicine today.

Gordon Mcdonough, Museum science evangelist