

Oxycodone

Names The generic drug name is oxycodone (ox-i-KOE-done). Brand names include Oxaydo® and OxyContin®. There are other names for this medication. There are also combination medications that contain oxycodone plus other ingredients such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

How Do I Take This Medication? Oxycodone comes as a tablet, capsule, or solution. Be sure to take it with a full glass water. It is suggested you take with food to lessen any stomach upset. Pills/capsules must be swallowed whole. If you cannot swallow a capsule whole, open it and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of pudding or applesauce. **Swallow the mixture right away without chewing.** Do not save it for later use. If using a liquid version, measure it carefully. Please note : Pay attention to the label. There is an extended release version of this drug – it has “ER” at the end of its name. If you take the ER version, please see that drug profile. There is also a concentrated solution in addition to the regular solution. Read labels carefully so you do not take too much medication. It can affect your breathing.

Why Am I Taking This Medication? Oxycodone is recommended to relieve severe or persistent pain.

How Does It Work? Oxycodone is an opioid (narcotic) analgesic. It works by decreasing the brain and nervous system’s response to pain.

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin? Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to oxycodone, codeine, hydrocodone, dihydrocodeine, or have any allergies
- have, or have had, a brain tumor, seizures, depression, mental problems, drug or alcohol addiction, or a recent head injury
- have kidney, liver, heart, or lung disease; breathing problems; sleep apnea; asthma; thyroid or adrenal gland disorder, problems with urination; or problems with your gallbladder, pancreas, or bowels
- are breastfeeding, pregnant, or trying to get pregnant

This drug can interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you take.

Please let us know ahead of time if you have had any allergic reactions or side effects to any medicines you have received in the past.

How Do I Store and Dispose of Oxycodone?

- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children.
- Store it at room temperature and away from light and excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom).
- If this medication has expired, or if your provider told you to stop taking it, flush all remaining doses down the toilet to prevent children, pets, and others from coming in contact with the drug.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Loss of appetite, nausea, and/or vomiting
- Dry mouth
- Constipation
- Drowsiness, lightheadedness, and/or dizziness
- Flushing and/or sweating
- Itching or rash
- Headache and/or mood changes

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- To help avoid constipation, eat high fiber foods and drink at least 2-3 quarts of fluid every 24 hours, unless you are instructed otherwise.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea, constipation, or headache.
- Using lotion may relieve itching but check with your doctor first.. Keep the area clean.
- If nausea or itching lasts more than 1 week, talk to your doctor.
- To help avoid dizziness when you change positions quickly, get out of bed slowly. Rest your feet on the floor for a few minutes before you stand.
- Ice chips, drinking plenty of water, and rinsing your mouth with an alcohol-free mouthwash may help with a dry mouth.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have life-threatening symptoms such as:

- signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives.
- signs of heart attack: Chest pain, pain in jaw, neck, back, arm; shortness of breath, sweating; nausea

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

What Else Should I
Know About
Oxycodone?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of an overdose: difficulty breathing, excessive sleepiness, hallucinations, fainting, weak muscles, cold and clammy skin, slow heartbeat (pulse) or a bluish color in your skin, fingernails, lips, or around your mouth

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- constipation
- lightheadedness, sleepiness, or drowsiness that does not go away
- nausea that does not go away or any episodes of vomiting

- **Do NOT use this medication if you are pregnant; your baby may be born dependent the drug and go through life-threatening withdrawal.**
- Oxycodone may be habit-forming. Take oxycodone exactly as directed. Do not take more of it, take it more often, or take it in a different way than directed by your doctor.
- If you have been taking oxycodone for an extended period of time, do not stop taking it suddenly. Your doctor may need to decrease your dose gradually to prevent withdrawal symptoms.
- **Do not drink alcohol or take other drugs while taking oxycodone, it can be fatal. Ask your doctor before taking any other medications while taking oxycodone.**
- **Oxycodone can slow or stop your breathing.** This is more likely in elderly or ill patients, but can occur in anyone taking this medicine.
- Do not share this medication with anyone else.
- Take this medication exactly as prescribed by your provider.
- Missed dose? If you are taking oxycodone on a regular schedule, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.
- This drug may cause drowsiness or dizziness. Do not drive a car, operate heavy machinery, or participate in other possibly dangerous activities until you know how oxycodone affects you.
- Tell your doctor if your pain is not well controlled, or if you have new or a different type of pain.
- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking oxycodone.
- If you would like more information about oxycodone, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.