Patient Education

Oxycodone & Acetaminophen
(ox-i-KOE-done & a-seet-a-MIN-oh-fen)

Other Names
Percocet®, Tylox®, Roxicet®, Magnacet®, Primlev®, Xolox® (There may be other names for this medication.)

How Do I Take This Medication?
The combination of oxycodone and acetaminophen comes as a tablet or a capsule. Take it with a full glass of water. If it upsets your stomach, take it with food or milk. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

Why Am I Taking This Medication?
Oxycodone/acetaminophen is used to relieve moderate to severe pain.

How Does It Work?
Oxycodone is an opioid (narcotic) analgesic. It works by decreasing the brain and nervous system’s response to pain. Acetaminophen relieves fever and pain and it is not an opioid.

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Oxycodone with Acetaminophen?
Tell your doctor if you:
• are allergic to oxycodone, acetaminophen, codeine, hydrocodone, or dihydrocodeine
• are breastfeeding, pregnant, or trying to get pregnant
• have had a recent head injury, a brain tumor, seizures, depression, mental problems, or severe curvature of the spine
• have kidney, liver, heart, or lung disease; breathing problems; problems with urination; or bowel problems

This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.

How Do I Store and Dispose of This Medication?
• 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 I May Experience?
• Loss of appetite, nausea, and/or vomiting
• Dry mouth
• Constipation
• Drowsiness, lightheadedness, and/or dizziness
• Flushing, sweating, itching, or rash
• Headache and/or mood changes
How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Ask your doctor about medication to prevent and treat constipation.
- To help avoid constipation, eat high fiber food 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 or headache.
- Using lotion may relieve itching. 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 up.
- 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 your doctor immediately if you experience:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching, hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or fast/pounding heartbeat (palpitations)
- any sign of an overdose: difficulty breathing, excessive sleepiness, hallucinations, fainting, weak muscles, cold and clammy skin, bluish color in your skin, fingernails, lips, or around your mouth, or slow heartbeat (pulse)
- dark-colored urine or pale stools
- seizures
- vomiting that occur more than once in a single day
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have the following less serious side effects:

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

What Else Should I Know About this Medication?

- If you have been taking this medication 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 let anyone else take your medication.
- Take this medication exactly as prescribed by your provider.
- 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 it 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.
• Do not drink alcohol while on this medication.
• Many combination medicines contain acetaminophen, including products with brand names such as Alka-Seltzer Plus®, Comtrex®, Drixoral®, Excedrin Migraine®, Midol®, Sinutab®, Sudafed®, Theraflu®, Vanquish®, and Tylenol®.
  Carefully check the labels of all the medications you are taking. Add up the milligrams of acetaminophen in each product. **Be sure that you do not take more than 4 grams (4,000 milligrams) of acetaminophen in 1 day (24 hours).**
• If you would like more information about oxycodone and acetaminophen, talk to your doctor.