

Analgesics MEDICATION GUIDE

Common Analgesics: Oxycodone, Darvocet, Dilaudid, Percocet, Oxy-IR, Roxicet, Talwin, Actiq, Demerol, Duragesic, Fentanyl, Methadone, Morphine, MS contin, Oxycontin, Roxanol, Percodan, Oxycodone/aspirin, Roxiprin, Mepergan fortis, Meprozone, Demerol/phenergan.

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking this drug and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You and your healthcare provider should talk about this drug when you start taking it and at regular checkups.

What is the most important information I should know about analgesics?

- Analgesics come in many forms. Some of them cannot be chewed, crushed or dissolved before swallowing; check with your Dr or pharmacist on the special instructions for the type of analgesic that has been prescribed.
- Almost all analgesics are federally controlled substances which should be used only for moderate to severe pain. These drugs can be abused by people who abuse prescription and street drugs.
- Never give this drug to another person, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It could cause harm or even death.
- Do not drink alcohol while using any analgesic. Using alcohol can increase your risk of dangerous side effects, including death.
- Check with your Dr before taking medications with this drug; this includes over the counter drugs and herbs; certain medicines can interact with this drug and cause serious side effects.
- It is not known if this drug is safe for children under 18 years.

What is an analgesic?

- Opioid or narcotic analgesics are prescription medications used to manage moderate to severe pain that continues around-the-clock and is expected to last for a long period of time. It works by changing the way the brain responds to pain.

How should I take this drug?

- Take it exactly as it is prescribed by your Dr. This category of drugs comes in many different forms. Be sure you understand exactly how to take this drug; if you have questions, call your healthcare provider.
- If you are still in pain after taking this drug, call your Dr or healthcare provider.
- Avoid alcohol while this drug.
- Avoid hazardous activities or those that require concentration while taking this drug; it can cause you to become sleepy or drowsy.
- Do not take other medicines, especially over the counter drugs and herbs without talking to your healthcare provider; your healthcare provider will tell you if it is safe to take other medicines while you take any drug in this class.
- Know the medicines you take and keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Keep this drug out of children's reach and do not share this drug with others.

What are the side effects of this drug?

- If these drugs are not used as prescribed they can cause breathing problems which could be life threatening.
- These drugs can cause blood pressure to fall when getting up from a sitting or lying position; it is important to rise slowly from these positions.
- It is possible to become physically dependent on these drugs; talk to your Dr before stopping them if you have been taking them for awhile.

Some of the most common side effects of these drugs include:

- constipation
- nausea
- drowsiness
- dizziness
- itching
- vomiting
- headache
- dry mouth
- weakness
- sweating

Constipation is a very common side effect of pain medicines and is unlikely to go away without treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider about dietary changes, and the use of laxatives (medicines to treat constipation) and stool softeners to prevent or treat constipation while taking these drugs.