

Oxycodone for short-term management of acute pain

This information is a general guide for patients prescribed oxycodone for a short time to treat acute pain. This happens:

- after an operation
- as a result of injury
- due to an acute medical illness

After an operation, injury or some medical illnesses it is normal to have pain. Each person will have different levels of pain. We expect it to last between a few days and a few weeks. It is important for your recovery (getting better) that you manage your pain well so that you are able to do rehabilitation activities such as exercises.

Why have I been given oxycodone?

Oxycodone (for example Endone[®]) is an opioid. It is used to relieve strong pain when other pain relievers such as paracetamol (for example Panadol[®], Panamax[®]) and anti-inflammatories (for example Brufen[®], Voltaren[®]) are not effective enough. Oxycodone is best used together with paracetamol and/or an anti-inflammatory.

You have been given oxycodone because you may have strong pain for a short time at home. Pain normally gets a little less each day as you get better. The type and amount of pain relievers you need will change. In time, you will only need paracetamol and/or an anti-inflammatory or nothing at all.

How and when should I take it?

Take oxycodone only as ordered by your doctor. This will be written on the medicine label. If you have also been advised to take paracetamol and/or an anti-inflammatory, take them as well as oxycodone

Do not take oxycodone longer than one week as you may form a habit or become addicted.

You should:

- > Only take oxycodone when you need it to relieve strong pain.
- > If you still have strong pain after a week, see your doctor

Before taking oxycodone

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- > Have had an allergic reaction to oxycodone in the past (or side effects).
- > Have allergies to any medicines.
- > Have any other medical conditions.
- > Are taking any other medicines – especially those for pain, anxiety, sleep or depression
- > Are pregnant or breastfeeding

Precautions

Oxycodone can make you sleepy. For your safety, you should **follow the instructions** listed below for **as long as you are taking oxycodone**:

- > Do not drive, ride a bike or operate machinery, including power tools
- > Take care with potentially hazardous situations at home, such as boiling the kettle
- > Do not make important personal or business decisions, or sign legal papers
- > Do not drink alcohol, take sleeping tablets or other medicines that make you sleepy
- > Do not take more tablets than have been prescribed
- > If you become drowsy or sleepy after taking oxycodone, do not take any more until you are wide awake. Once you are wide awake, if you need to take oxycodone again, take a lower dose (such as half (1/2) the dose).

Stop taking oxycodone if you are very sleepy or having trouble staying awake.

Go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital or emergency services (000).

Side effects

You may have some side effects from oxycodone. If you are worried about any side effects that you develop or cannot manage, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. Common side effects include:

- > Drowsiness (see precautions), nausea or vomiting, a skin rash.
- > Constipation. Keep up your fluid and fibre intake and stay active where possible. You may need a laxative. If constipation becomes a problem, discuss it with your doctor or pharmacist.

This is not a full list of the side effects of oxycodone. For more information on the side effects and risks read the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI).

If you are having a serious or life-threatening side effect such as:

- > Trouble breathing
- > Seizures (fits)

Call triple zero (000) straight away.

Safety measures

- > When you see your doctor, dentist, nurse, midwife and pharmacist, tell them you are taking oxycodone.
- > Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can take your other medicines as well as oxycodone.
- > Do not give your oxycodone to anyone else.
- > Keep oxycodone:
 - in a safe place and out of reach of others
 - where children cannot see or reach it.
 - in a cool, dry place.
- > Do not keep any left-over oxycodone that you do not need. Take it to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Pregnant or breast-feeding women:

- > **Do not** sleep on the same surface as your baby while taking oxycodone.
- > If you or your baby are very sleepy or having trouble staying awake, stop taking oxycodone and contact the emergency department of your nearest hospital or call triple zero (000).

This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

This fact sheet is a guide only and is not intended to cover everything. It does not take the place of professional advice from your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. If you have further questions or concerns, please call:

- > The hospital where you were treated
- > Your GP or pharmacist
- > Healthdirect 1800 022 222
- > Poisons Information Centre (specialist advice for poisons and overdoses) 13 11 26

For more information

**Medicines and Technology Programs
Office of the Chief Pharmacist
SA Health
Telephone: (08) 8204 1944
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au**

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