
Additional Questions

Your doctor or pharmacist can answer any of your questions about the drugs you are taking. Don't hesitate to call.

Your Medicine

Darvocet

Take
_____ pills every _____ hours

Tylenol #3 (Codeine)

Take
_____ pills every _____ hours

Vicodin (Acetaminophen / hydrocodone)

Take
_____ pills every _____ hours

Ultram

Dose
_____ 50mg.

Take _
_____ pill every _____ hours

(Note-Ultram is not a true narcotic, but has many narcotic-like properties.)

Patient Information

Things You Should Know About Narcotic Medications

Your Clinic Name

123 Any Street
Your City, State ZIP

555-555-5555
Fax 555-555-5556

Your Logo

Narcotic Medicine

These drugs are used to treat moderate to severe pain. They work by stopping the pain signals from getting to the brain. In other words, narcotics “cover up” the pain. Narcotics, unlike non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, do nothing to help the healing process.

Narcotic-Containing Medicines

Almost all narcotic-containing medicines are combinations of a narcotic plus acetaminophen (Tylenol) or aspirin.

Usually the pharmacy will give you a generic version of the medicine your doctor prescribed. Generics are the same as the brand name drug and will work just as well.

How To Take Your Medicine

For a medicine to work it must be taken properly. Your doctor will tell you how many pills to take and when to take them. However, there are some general rules about taking narcotic-containing drugs.

1. Don't drink any alcohol while taking a narcotic-containing medicine.

2. Don't take any other medicine while you are taking a narcotic-containing medicine unless first discussed with your doctor.
3. Be sure to tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking – even those you can buy without a prescription.

Occasional Side Effects

Narcotics are safe drugs if taken for a short time and as directed. Most people can take them without any problems or side effects.

The common side effects include:

- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- “Fuzzy” thinking
- Vomiting
- Trouble Urinating
- Nausea
- Constipation
- Rash

Since constipation is one of the most common side effect of narcotics, it's best to prevent it by drinking plenty of fluids and increasing the amount of fiber in their diets. Some people need to start on a stool softener.

Other Side Effects

It's important to remember that any drug can, in some people, cause any side effect. If you have any mild problems of any kind, call the office or the pharmacist for advice. You may stop the medication until you get advice.

IF YOU HAVE SEVERE SWELLING, TROUBLE BREATHING, TROUBLE SWALLOWING, OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT CONCERNS YOU, GO DIRECTLY TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CENTER.

NEVER DRIVE OR OPERATE ANY EQUIPMENT WHILE TAKING THESE DRUGS UNTIL YOU ARE SURE THEY DON'T CAUSE DROWSINESS OR AFFECT YOUR THINKING.

What About Addiction?

When taken for a short time to treat pain, narcotic-containing drugs are safe and there is very little chance of becoming addicted.

Let the doctor know if you have a history of chemical dependency, drug addiction, or alcoholism.