

Oxycontin (oxycodone) basics

Treats moderate to severe pain. Oxycontin (oxycodone) treats moderate to severe pain, but can be habit-forming, especially if used long-term.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Oxycontin (oxycodone) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects					
Nausea 23% chance vs. 11% placebo*					
Itchiness 13% chance vs. 2% placebo*					
Headache 7% chance vs. 7% placebo*					
Dizziness 13% chance vs. 9% placebo*					
Sleepiness 23% chance vs. 4% placebo*					
Constipation 23% chance vs. 7% placebo*					

* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Oxycontin (oxycodone) exactly as your doctor prescribed.
- This medicine can make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid driving or operating heavy machinery until you know how Oxycontin (oxycodone) affects you.
- Don't combine with alcohol, muscle relaxants, or sleeping pills. This combination can stop your lungs from working and be deadly.
- Oxycontin (oxycodone) can cause constipation. Drinking lots of water and eating fiber such as fruits and vegetables can help.
- Do not crush or chew extended-release pills. Doing so will release more medicine than intended and is dangerous.

Risks and warnings

This drug carries significant risks, including addiction.

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Slowed breathing

Taking high doses of Oxycontin (oxycodone) can cause irregular or slow breathing, which can be life-threatening. Do not drink alcohol while taking Oxycontin (oxycodone). Do not crush or chew extended-release pills. Check with your pharmacist to see if other medicines you are taking may make these effects worse.

Harm to newborn babies

Long-term use of opioids during pregnancy can cause a condition called neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome in newborn babies that can be life-threatening if not treated. Let your doctor know if you have used Oxycontin (oxycodone) during pregnancy.

Tolerance, dependence, and addiction

If taken regularly for a long time, Oxycontin (oxycodone) can cause physical dependence and tolerance. This means that you may need larger doses to achieve the same pain relief, and may experience withdrawal symptoms if the medicine is suddenly stopped. Do not take more than what is prescribed and talk to your doctor about alternatives if this is a concern.