

## **Hydrocodone with Acetaminophen (Generic); Lortab® , Lorcet® , Norco® , Vicodin® (Brand)**

*Do not take  
any other  
products  
that contain  
acetaminophen  
while taking  
this medicine.*

This medicine combines two different types of pain medications—a narcotic analgesic (hydrocodone) and acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Narcotic analgesics act in the nervous system (brain) to relieve pain. Many of the side-effects, such as drowsiness and dizziness, also are caused by their actions in the brain.

Acetaminophen relieves pain and fever. When used together, hydrocodone and acetaminophen may provide better pain relief for certain types of pain than seen when taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) alone.

### **Dosage and Administration**

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water. You can take this medicine with food if you wish. The usual dose is 1 or 2 tablets. It is usually taken every 4 to 6 hours, when needed for pain. It takes about 20 minutes for this medicine to start working.

**Do not** take extra doses. **Do not** take any other products that contain acetaminophen (Tylenol®) while taking this medicine. Too much acetaminophen may damage your liver. **Do not** take more than 4,000 mg of acetaminophen per day. Many remedies contain acetaminophen. Be sure to read labels carefully.

This medicine can interact with warfarin, alcohol, cimetidine and medication for seizures. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about the medicines you are currently taking (both prescription and over-the-counter medicines, especially Tylenol®).

Before taking this medicine, tell your doctor if you:

- Consume alcohol on a daily basis.
- Are constipated or have problems passing stools.
- Have a history of liver disease such as hepatitis.

## Missed Dose

If you are taking this medicine on a routine schedule and have missed a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Then, go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose.

## Side-Effects

This medicine can cause drowsiness, nausea, constipation and dizziness. This often occurs with the first dose or if you change doses. If you notice any other effects that are unusual, check with your doctor. An overdose of this medication, as with any narcotic or with Tylenol<sup>®</sup>, could be life-threatening.

If you think you or someone else may have taken an overdose, get emergency help at once.

Hydrocodone can be habit-forming. Do not take a larger dose or take it more often or for a longer period than your doctor tells you.

Tell your doctor if your pain does not go away, or if you have a different type of pain.

## Special Instructions

Do not drive or perform tasks that require mental alertness until you know how this medicine affects you. Take this medicine exactly as prescribed. If not taken correctly, your chance of side-effects may be increased. It also could lead to an overdose.

***Do not drink alcoholic beverages while taking this medicine.*** There is increased risk of drowsiness, unconsciousness or death. Do not take over-the-counter allergy or cold medications or other products that can make you sleepy, or that contain acetaminophen, without the advice of a healthcare provider.

Let your doctor know if you are allergic to codeine or acetaminophen, if you have other medical problems or if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

You may avoid constipation by increasing fluid intake to 6 to 8 glasses of water a day and by taking a laxative recommended by your doctor. Call your doctor if you do not have a bowel movement for 3 days.

Keep this medication in the original container it came in, tightly closed and out of the reach of children. Store away from heat and direct light. Keep away from damp places, including the bathroom.

This information is not intended to describe all possible drug uses or side-effects. Please contact your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

If you have any questions about this or any other medication, please ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

## **Health Information Resources**

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the third floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the first floor of the Prentice Women's Hospital. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to [hlc@nmh.org](mailto:hlc@nmh.org).

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at [www.nmh.org](http://www.nmh.org).

*Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar a el departamento de representantes para pacientes al 312-926-3112.*

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