

Hydrocodone With Acetaminophen (Lortab® , Lorcet® , Norco® , Vicodin®)

This medicine combines 2 different types of pain medications:

- Hydrocodone
- Acetaminophen

Hydrocodone is a narcotic medication that acts on the brain to relieve pain. Acetaminophen, also known as Tylenol®, relieves pain and fever. Together, these medicines may provide better pain relief for certain types of pain than taking one of them alone. However, tell your physician if your pain does not improve or if you develop a different type of pain.

*For your safety,
take this
medicine only
as prescribed.*

Dosage and administration

Take this medicine as prescribed by your physician. The usual dose is 1 or 2 tablets taken every 4 to 6 hours, as needed. Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water. You can take this medicine with food or milk if it upsets your stomach. Take this medicine only as prescribed. If it is not taken correctly, your risk of having side effects may be increased.

This medicine should only be taken on an as-needed basis. You may take it less often than every 4 to 6 hours, but do not take it more often. It takes about 20 minutes for this medicine to start working.

Side effects

Like other narcotic pain medicines, 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 unusual side effects, contact your physician.

Prevent constipation by drinking 6 to 8 glasses of water a day. Talk with your physician or pharmacist about using a laxative or stool softener if you feel it may be helpful. Call your physician if you do not have a bowel movement for 3 days.

Interactions

This medicine can interact with alcohol and other medicines such as warfarin, cimetidine and seizure medications. Ask your physician or pharmacist if this medicine interacts with other prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medicines you are taking. OTC medicine is medicine that can be bought without a prescription.

Before taking this medicine, tell your physician if you:

- Drink alcohol.
- Have a history of constipation or difficulty with bowel movements.
- Have ever had liver disease, such as hepatitis.
- Have inflammatory bowel disease or ulcerative colitis.
- Have other medical problems.
- Are allergic to codeine, hydrocodone or acetaminophen.
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Medication safety

For your safety:

- Do not drive or perform tasks that require mental alertness while taking this medicine.
- Do not drink any alcohol while taking this medicine. There is a greater risk of drowsiness, unconsciousness or death.
- Do not share this medication with anyone.
- Do not take any allergy or cold medications, products that can make you sleepy, or other medications that contain acetaminophen without the advice of a healthcare provider.

Hydrocodone can be habit forming:

- Do not take extra doses.
- Do not take more pills than prescribed.
- Do not take more often than prescribed.
- Do not take for a longer period than prescribed.

Taking too much of this medication could be life threatening. If you think you or someone else may have taken an overdose, get emergency help at once.

Too much acetaminophen may damage your liver.

- Do not take any other medicines that contain acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) while taking this medicine unless they are approved by your physician. Many OTC medicines, including cough and cold medicines, contain acetaminophen. Read labels carefully or check with your pharmacist to understand acetaminophen amounts.
- Do not take more than a total of 4,000 milligrams of acetaminophen in 24 hours without asking your physician or pharmacist. Ask your physician about 24-hour limits that are right for you. Those who are fasting or undernourished, have diabetes, are taking isoniazid, or drink alcohol may often need to limit acetaminophen to 2,000 to 3,000 milligrams per day in divided doses. It is possible your physician will tell you not to take anything else with acetaminophen at all.

Storage and disposal

Keep this medicine:

- In its original container and tightly closed.
- Out of reach of children.
- At room temperature.
- Away from heat and direct light.
- Away from damp places, including the bathroom.

Dispose of leftover medicine properly. This medicine could be harmful to children, pets or others if taken by accident. To ensure safe and secure disposal of leftover medicine, return unused or unwanted medication to a collection site.

- Ask your local pharmacy if they take back this medicine for disposal.
- Participate in take-back events. Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service, and ask if a medicine take-back program is available in your community.
- Look up local collection sites through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website: apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1.w.
- Call the DEA at 800.882.9539 to locate a disposal site in your area.

If you are unable to locate an authorized collector, dispose of the medicine as follows:

1. Take the medicine out of the original container.
2. Mix it with kitty litter, dirt or coffee grounds.
3. Place the mix in a sealable bag or container.
4. Throw it away in your household trash. Make sure to remove all personal information from the original container.

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

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