

## Hydrocodone With Acetaminophen (Lortab<sup>®</sup>, Lorcet<sup>®</sup>, Norco<sup>®</sup>, Vicodin<sup>®</sup>)

This medication combines 2 types of pain medications:

- Hydrocodone
- Acetaminophen

*For your safety,  
take this  
medication only  
as prescribed.  
If you have any  
questions, ask  
your care team.*

Hydrocodone is a narcotic medication. It acts on the brain to relieve pain. Acetaminophen is known as Tylenol<sup>®</sup>. It relieves pain and fever. Together, they may give you better pain relief for some types of pain than taking just 1 of them. However, tell your physician if your pain does not improve. Tell them if you get a different type of pain.

### Doses and administration

Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Your physician will tell you how many tablets to take and when. If you do not take it correctly, you can increase the risk of having side effects.

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water. You can take them with food or milk if swallowing them with just water upsets your stomach.

Take this medication only when you need it to manage your pain as prescribed. Do not take it more often. It takes about 20 minutes to start working.

### Side effects

This medication can cause:

- Drowsiness
- Nausea
- Constipation
- Dizziness

This often happens with the 1st dose or if you change doses. Tell your care team about any other side effects.

Drinking 6 to 8 glasses of water a day can help prevent constipation. Talk with your care team about using a laxative or stool softener if you think it may help. Call your physician if you do not have a bowel movement for 3 days.

## Interactions

Alcohol and other medications can affect how this medication works. Examples of these include warfarin, cimetidine and seizure medications. Ask your physician or pharmacist if it affects other medications you take.

Before taking this medication, tell your physician if you:

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

## Medication safety

For your safety:

- While taking this medication, do not drive or do other tasks that need you to be mentally alert.
- Do not drink any alcohol while taking this medication. It can increase the risk of drowsiness, unconsciousness or death.
- Do not share this medication with anyone.
- Do not take any allergy or cold medications that can make you sleepy.
- Do not take other medications that have acetaminophen without talking with your physician.

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 can be life threatening. If you or someone else may have taken an overdose, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Too much acetaminophen may damage your liver.

- Do not take any other medications with acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) while taking this unless your physician approved it. Many over-the-counter (OTC) medications, including cough and cold medications, contain acetaminophen. Read labels carefully or check with your pharmacist to understand the amounts.
- Do not take more than 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.

- You may need to limit acetaminophen to 2,000 to 3,000 milligrams per day in divided doses if any of the following applies to you:

- Fasting or are undernourished
- Have diabetes
- Are taking isoniazid
- Drink alcohol

Your physician may tell you not to take anything else with acetaminophen.

## Storage and disposal

Store this medication:

- In its original container and tightly closed
- Where children cannot reach it
- At room temperature
- Away from heat and direct light
- Away from damp places, including the bathroom

Dispose of leftover medication properly. It can be harmful to children, pets or others. To dispose of leftover medication safely, bring it to a collection site.

- Ask your pharmacy if they take back this medication for disposal.
- Go to a take-back event. Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service. Ask them if there is a medication take-back program near you.
- Look up nearby collection sites through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website: [apps.deadiversions.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1](https://apps.deadiversions.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1)
- Call the DEA at 800.882.9539 to find a disposal site near you.

If you cannot find an authorized collector, follow these steps:

1. Take the medication 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 trash.
5. Remove all personal information (such as your name and address) from the original container. Throw it away.

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