

COMMON LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF OXYCODONE

Long-term physical effects of oxycodone abuse, or any opioid drug abuse, include:

Cardiovascular Damage (primarily due to injecting the drugs):

- Endocarditis -- heart infection
- Scarred and/or collapsed veins
- Blood vessels clogged by foreign particles, causing cell death

Other Organ Damage and Disease:

- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Arthritis (primarily due to injecting the drugs)

Danger During Pregnancy:

- Miscarriage, premature delivery, or stillbirth of pregnancies
- Addicted newborns

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

How can I protect my children from abusing oxycodone and other prescription drugs?

- Keep your prescription drugs in a secure place. Ask questions if you notice certain prescription drugs disappearing.
- If your children take prescription drugs, keep control of the bottle. Talk to your school nurse about monitoring and giving your teen their medications during the school day.
- Talk with your children about the dangers of abusing oxycodone and other prescription drugs.
- **Monitor Internet use in your home.** Be alertthere are many sites on the Internet where prescription drugs can be purchased without a prescription.
- **Be a part of your child's life.** Know where they go, with whom, and when. Set clear rules about alcohol and drug use, and enforce them.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

Prescription Monitoring Program

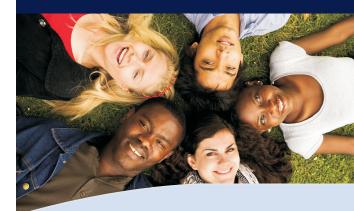
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Oxycodone:

(Endocodone, M-Oxy, OxyContin, Oxy-IR, Oxydose, Percolone, Roxicodone)

Protect Your Teens



Get the Facts About this Highly Addictive and Abusable Drug



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This brochure was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs - Award # 2007-PM-BX-0028.

WHAT IS OXYCODONE?

Oxycodone is a drug prescribed by physicians to treat moderate to severe pain. While prescription drugs may be helpful if they are used properly, taking oxycodone without a doctor's approval and supervision can be highly addictive and dangerous.

- Although oxycodone is a prescription drug, it is also a narcotic (opiate) like heroin. People who become addicted to oxycodone often switch to heroin, which is easier to get and less expensive.
- Among teens, oxycodone is also known as Oxy, OC, Roxi's or blue dynamite (different strengths have different names).

Prescription drug misuse is more common than you think:

- Most prescription drugs abused by teens come from family medicine cabinets and from friends.
- 1 in 5 teens have abused oxycodone or other prescription drugs.
- 3 out of 10 teens believe that getting high on prescription medications is not dangerous, but the truth is it can be just as dangerous and addictive as using heroin.



MISUSING OXYCODONE

The misuse of oxycodone or other prescription drugs by teens can lead to the following:

- **Physical dependence.** Dependence develops quickly. The body adapts to the presence of oxycodone and withdrawal symptoms occur when use is stopped.
- Severe symptoms when use is stopped,
 including restlessness, muscle and bone pain,
 insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes, and
 involuntary leg movements.
- Repeated misuse will lead to addiction to Oxycodone. Heroin addiction often follows.
- You will notice changes in your teen's social, emotional and family life.
- Changes in breathing can lead to death.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

How to recognize if your teen is abusing oxycodone or other prescription drugs:

- Your teen has drugs (like pills) for unlikely reasons.
- You notice prescription drugs missing.
- Your teen visits websites where he or she can purchase drugs or learn about drug use.
- You notice changes in your teen's social behavior.

Other prescription drugs that can be abused include:

- Pain relievers (like Percocet® or Vicodin®)
- Stimulants (like Adderall® and Ritalin®)
- Sedatives and Tranquilizers (like Mebaral®, Valium® or Xanax®)