



## ARE YOU ADDICTED?

Answering “yes” to any of the following questions may indicate a problem with the use of hydrocodone and acetaminophen.

- Do you feel physically ill (muscle and bone pain, night sweats, insomnia, etc.) when you run out of or stop taking hydrocodone and acetaminophen?
- Are you committing illegal acts such as doctor shopping or buying hydrocodone and acetaminophen on the street to maintain your supply?
- Do you need more pills to get the same or desired effect?
- Do you feel or have you been told your hydrocodone and acetaminophen use has become an issue with your family or loved ones?
- Are you taking hydrocodone and acetaminophen more often or in larger quantities than prescribed?

## OVERDOSING RISKS

Hydrocodone and acetaminophen addiction is a serious matter, not to be taken lightly. Taking larger than prescribed dosages can lead to overdose, which can result in death. If you suspect someone may be experiencing any of the signs below, a medical professional should be contacted to avoid a possibly devastating outcome.

### Signs of overdose include:

- respiratory depression (slow or shallow breathing)
- extreme drowsiness
- coma
- cold or clammy skin
- bradycardia (slowing of heart beat), and hypotension
- circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest or death

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

### Prescription Monitoring Program

450 Columbus Blvd, Suite 901

Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 713-6073 • [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)



# Hydrocodone and Acetaminophen:

(Anexsia, Dolacet, Lorcet, Lortab,  
Norco, Vicodin, Zydone)



## Addictive Drug and Powerful Pain Reliever



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## WHAT IS HYDROCODONE AND ACETAMINOPHEN?

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When combined, hydrocodone and acetaminophen form a painkiller used to relieve moderate to severe pain. *Hydrocodone* is a synthetic codeine; *acetaminophen* is commonly known by the trade name Tylenol.

Combined hydrocodone and acetaminophen is one of the most widely prescribed pain relievers and has become one of the most frequently abused drugs nationwide.

### What should I avoid while taking hydrocodone and acetaminophen?

This medication can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be awake and alert. Do not use any other over-the-counter cough, cold, allergy, or pain medication without first asking your doctor or pharmacist.

Avoid drinking alcohol while taking hydrocodone and acetaminophen. Alcohol may increase your risk of liver damage while taking acetaminophen.

Cold or allergy medicine, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, antidepressants, or seizure medication can add to sleepiness caused by hydrocodone, or could slow your breathing.

Tell your doctor if you need to use any of these other medicines while you are taking hydrocodone and acetaminophen.



## COMMON HYDROCODONE & ACETAMINOPHEN SIDE EFFECTS

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Side effects of hydrocodone and acetaminophen use could include one or more of the following:

- dizziness
- drowsiness
- lightheadedness
- nausea / vomiting
- itching
- constipation
- respiratory depression (slow or shallow breathing)

Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away.

## WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF HYDROCODONE & ACETAMINOPHEN?

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As an individual continues to use hydrocodone and acetaminophen, the body develops a tolerance to its effects (including therapeutic benefits) and increasing amounts of hydrocodone and acetaminophen must be taken to produce the same effects.

### Long-term effects of hydrocodone and acetaminophen abuse include:

- liver problems
- hearing loss
- nausea
- headaches
- chronic constipation