

OxyContin (Oxycodone) Addiction & Oxy Treatment:

Oxycodone is an opiate derived from morphine and is legally prescribed for pain relief. Found in the prescription drug OxyContin, it is a Schedule II narcotic analgesic and is highly addictive. Oxycodone is found either alone in a controlled release formulation (OxyContin) or in an immediate release formulation (OxyIR, OxyFast). It can also be found in combination with other non-narcotic analgesics such as aspirin (Percodan) or acetaminophen (Percocet). OxyContin was introduced in 1996 and has escalated in abuse ever since.

Street terms for OxyContin are:

OC, OX, Oxy, Oxycotton, Hillbilly heroin, kicker

Effects of OxyContin

OxyContin use can lead to sedation, euphoria, respiratory depression, papillary constriction and cough suppression. The effects of OxyContin can last 8-12 hours, however if taking oxycodone alone, the effects generally last up to 5 hours. Oxycodone is an opioid and is frequently abused because of the euphoric feelings that it gives users. Taking a large single dose of oxycodone could cause severe respiratory depression leading to death.

Lasting/Long-Term Effects

Continuing abuse of opioids can create a tolerance for the drugs, causing users to take higher doses to achieve the same initial effects. Users can become physically dependent upon opioids as well, and if use is stopped withdrawal symptoms can occur. An overdose of oxycodone can cause respiratory depression, cold and clammy skin, reduction in blood pressure and heart rate, coma, respiratory arrest and death.

Convincing an addict to enter treatment to receive help for their addiction is crucial. Symptoms of withdrawal from oxycodone include heart palpitations, nausea, hypertension, fever, insomnia and muscle and joint pain.