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NDC 59011-440-10

OxyContin (oxycodone hydrochloride extended-release tablets)

40 mg

100 Tablets Rx Only

Purdue Pharma L.P.

www.schedulemedicine.com

OxyContin is the brand name for **oxycodone hydrochloride**, a powerful **opioid analgesic** used for managing **moderate to severe pain**. It is primarily prescribed to individuals who require long-term pain relief, especially when other pain medications are not effective. OxyContin works by altering how the brain and nervous system respond to pain, providing extended pain relief for those dealing with chronic pain conditions.

However, due to its potency and the risks associated with opioid use, **OxyContin** should only be used under strict medical supervision, especially for long-term pain management.

What Is OxyContin Used For?

OxyContin is prescribed for the management of **moderate to severe chronic pain**. It is often used in patients who have conditions that cause constant or long-lasting pain, such as:

- **Cancer-related pain**
- **Severe back pain**
- **Post-surgical pain** that requires extended treatment
- **Pain from serious injuries or accidents**
- **Arthritis or osteoarthritis pain** (in specific cases)

Because of its extended-release formulation, OxyContin is intended for **continuous, around-the-clock pain relief** and is not intended for acute, short-term pain or as a rescue medication for sudden pain flare-ups. Doctors often reserve OxyContin for patients who have developed

a tolerance to other pain medications or those with chronic pain conditions that require long-term management.

How OxyContin Works

OxyContin contains **oxycodone**, an opioid that works by binding to specific receptors in the brain and spinal cord called **opioid receptors**. These receptors help regulate the body's perception of pain. By binding to these receptors, oxycodone blocks pain signals, providing significant relief from both the physical and emotional distress caused by pain.

OxyContin is formulated as an **extended-release** tablet, which means it releases the medication gradually over time. This allows the patient to receive a **steady amount of pain relief** throughout the day and night. The extended-release mechanism is designed to last for 12 hours, which is why OxyContin is typically taken **every 12 hours**.

Dosage and Administration

OxyContin is available in tablet form and comes in various strengths, ranging from **10 mg to 80 mg**. The exact dosage is tailored to each individual's needs based on their medical condition, age, and how well they respond to the medication.

It is essential to take OxyContin exactly as prescribed by a healthcare provider. The tablets should be **swallowed whole** and should **never be crushed, chewed, or dissolved**, as this can lead to a dangerous, rapid release of the drug, increasing the risk of overdose.

For patients who have not previously been treated with opioids, doctors will often start with a lower dose and gradually increase it to reduce the risk of side effects, such as nausea, dizziness, and sedation.

Potential Side Effects of OxyContin

As with all opioids, OxyContin carries a risk of side effects. Common side effects include:

- **Drowsiness and fatigue**
- **Constipation**
- **Nausea and vomiting**
- **Dizziness or lightheadedness**
- **Headaches**

These side effects can be particularly pronounced when starting treatment, and they may diminish over time as the body adjusts to the medication. However, some side effects, like constipation, may require additional treatment to manage effectively.

More serious side effects include:

- **Respiratory depression** (slow or shallow breathing), which can be fatal
- **Low blood pressure**
- **Confusion, delirium, or mental clouding**
- **Dependence, tolerance, or addiction**

If any severe side effects are noticed, such as trouble breathing, chest pain, or signs of overdose (such as extreme drowsiness, slow heart rate, or loss of consciousness), medical attention should be sought immediately.

Important Considerations and Warnings

OxyContin is a **highly addictive opioid**, and its use should be strictly monitored. Long-term use can lead to **tolerance** (requiring higher doses to achieve the same effect), **physical dependence**, and **addiction**. Patients who use OxyContin for extended periods should be carefully monitored for signs of misuse, such as increasing the dose without consulting a doctor or attempting to obtain the medication from unauthorized sources.

Because OxyContin can cause **respiratory depression**, it should be used with caution in individuals with **lung disease** or **sleep apnea**, and it should not be combined with other central nervous system depressants like alcohol or benzodiazepines without careful supervision from a healthcare provider.

Withdrawal symptoms can occur if OxyContin is discontinued suddenly after prolonged use. To prevent withdrawal, doctors typically recommend **gradually tapering the dose** over time rather than stopping abruptly.

Safe Storage and Disposal

Given the risk of misuse and overdose, OxyContin should be stored securely in a safe place, away from children, pets, and unauthorized individuals. If the medication is no longer needed or has expired, it should be disposed of properly. Many pharmacies offer **medication take-back programs** to ensure safe disposal.

Conclusion

OxyContin is a highly effective medication for the management of chronic pain, particularly in patients with severe, long-term pain conditions. However, due to its potential for dependence, addiction, and overdose, it must be used cautiously and only under the supervision of a healthcare professional. Patients should follow their doctor's instructions closely and discuss any concerns about side effects or the risk of misuse.

For those with ongoing pain, OxyContin may be an essential part of their treatment plan, but it should always be combined with other pain management strategies, such as physical therapy, lifestyle changes, and psychological support, for the most comprehensive approach to pain management.