

PAIN TREATMENT TOPICS

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Access to Clinical News, Information, Research, and Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

Pain-Topics.org Addresses Oxycodone Safety Concerns

With proper prescribing, appropriate risk management, and effective patient education, oxycodone is a useful and relatively safe opioid for pain management.

Glenview, IL; June 2007 – Although oxycodone is an older opioid analgesic, used for more than 80 years, it has been in the news lately for all the wrong reasons -- with sensational stories telling of its misuse, abuse, and overdose. Concerns about oxycodone have been justified; however, with proper prescribing, appropriate risk management, and effective patient education, it remains a useful and relatively safe analgesic option for pain management.

A new, peer-reviewed report exclusively from *Pain Treatment Topics* provides guidance on the safe prescribing of immediate release (IR) and controlled release (CR) oxycodone. Additionally, a patient instructions handout emphasizes medication compliance and safety to help prevent accidental misuse and avoidable adverse events.

To access these free documents, go to:

http://www.pain-topics.org/opioid_rx/oxycodone.php#OxyRx

Commonsense Oxycodone Prescribing & Safety

This guidance paper by Lee A. Kral, PharmD, BCPS discusses the safe prescribing of all oxycodone formulations. Oxycodone is a versatile oral opioid effective in treating many types of cancer and noncancer pain. Dosage forms are flexible and easily interchangeable, and it is not subject to significant alterations in pharmacokinetics. Oxycodone side effects are predictable and similar to other opioids, although it may be better tolerated than morphine in some patients. Generally, oxycodone is reserved for patients having intolerable adverse effects from morphine or other opioids that prevent adequate



titration for desired analgesia. Its ultimate role depends on patient response, prescriber comfort in using the agent, and relative cost considerations

Patient Instructions Handout: Safely Taking Oxycodone

To assist healthcare providers in their vital patient-education responsibilities, special 2-page, “Patient Instructions” handouts on the safe use of oxycodone are available in English and Spanish. Developed by Lee A. Kral, PharmD, BCPS and Stewart B. Leavitt, MA, PhD, these can be downloaded and reproduced free of charge for distribution at the time oxycodone analgesia is prescribed. Ideally, these also would be used as discussion guides for face-to-face education of patients – and their families or caregivers. The emphasis of the handouts is on medication compliance and safety, to help prevent misuse and avoidable adverse events potentially associated with oxycodone analgesia therapy. Of special importance, this handout describes warning signs of oxycodone overdose, and instructs family members or caregivers to immediately seek emergency assistance if any occur.



Pain Treatment Topics and the Pain-Topics.org website provide open and free access to non-commercial, evidence-based clinical news, information, research, and education on the causes and effective treatment of the many types of pain conditions. It is independently produced and currently supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Mallinckrodt Inc., St. Louis, MO, a leading manufacturer of generic opioid analgesic products.

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