

Addiction

Opioids are highly addictive. Some people become addicted to prescription opioids even when they do follow the doctors' orders. However, addiction becomes more likely with frequent use and abuse of the drugs, and the risks of addiction are lowered with correct use of the drugs.

If an opioid user stops after long-term use, he/she would like experience **symptoms of withdrawal**.

Common Symptoms of Withdrawal

- Low energy
- Irritability and agitation
- Anxiety
- Trouble sleeping
- Muscle aches and pains
- Cramps, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Hot and cold sweats

Treatment Options

Counseling is available 24 hours a day by phone at **1-855-407-9909**

There are both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs with trained professionals who can help to ease the pain of Vicodin withdrawal.

Call **1-844-889-3218** to discuss and choose the best treatment options

Extra Reading and Resources

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/>

NIDA for Teens

<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/>

Drugs.com

<http://www.drugs.com/vicodin.html>

<http://www.drugs.com/oxycotin.html>

Overcoming Addictions

<http://www.addictions.com/>

**Narcotics Anonymous
(group discussion sessions about narcotics addiction)**

<https://www.na.org/>

Teen Addiction Anonymous

<http://www.teenaddictionanonymous.com/home>

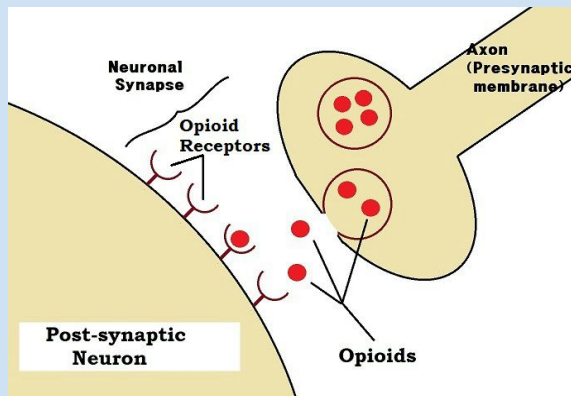
Addiction Recovery Help for Teens and Young Adults - SMART Recovery
<http://www.smartrecovery.org/teens/>

Drugs of Abuse: Prescription Opioids



What are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that bind to a class of receptors called **opioid receptors**. These receptors are found in the brain, spinal cord, gut, and many other organs in the body. Binding of the opioids to the opioid receptors can reduce feelings of pain, but it can also produce drowsiness, extreme happiness, confusion, constipation, nausea, and many more effects.



Examples of opioids include:

morphine, codeine, methadone, Buprenorphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, and heroin.

Prescription Opioids

Some opioids are used as prescription painkillers for moderate to severe pain when non-opioid painkillers are ineffective. These are also called **narcotics**.

Examples of prescription opioids include **Vicodin** and **OxyContin**

Vicodin

Street names: Vike, Watsons, Vics, Vicos, Tabs

Vicodin is a brand name for the mix of drugs **acetaminophen** and **hydrocodone**. It is typically used to relieve pain after surgeries. You must have a doctor's prescription to buy Vicodin.

Acetaminophen is a non-narcotic painkiller. It is also known by the brand name **TYLENOL®**

Hydrocodone is an opioid used as a painkiller.

The same combination of drugs is also sold under the names **Lortab** and **Norco**.



OxyContin

Street names: Oxys, Cotton, Pills, Kickers, OxyCotton, Ox, OCs, Orange County, Beans, Hillbilly Heroin

OxyContin is a brand name for the drug **oxycodone**, which is an opioid painkiller typically used for chronic pains due to cancer, heart attacks, severe burns, and bone pain. OxyContin comes in a specialized pill that releases oxycodone slowly into the body.

Oxycodone is also sold under the brands, **Roxicodone**, **OxyIR**, and **Oxyfast**.

What is Considered Abuse of Prescription Opioids?

- Taking drug to feel relaxed or extremely happy (to get "high")
- Taking drug to relieve pain without a prescription
- Taking someone else's prescription opioids
- Mixing opioids w/ other drugs such as alcohol
- Taking your own prescription opioids without adhering to doctors' orders, such as: snorting, injecting, chewing, or crushing the drug



Some Effects of Prescription Opioids Abuse

- Drowsiness
 - Confusion and extreme mood swings
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Extreme anxiety and paranoia
 - Constipation
 - Itching
 - Fainting and loss of consciousness
 - Seizures
 - Slowed breathing and heartbeat
 - Death
- Using both drugs with alcohol can further slow breathing and heart beat to cause cardiac arrest
 - Snorting or injecting both drugs increases the likelihood of overdose, addiction, and other negative effects of opioid abuse
 - Snorting either drug can also damage the nasal cavities