

Percocet



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What is Percocet? Percocet is used to relieve moderate to severe pain and fever. It is a combination medicine that has two types of drugs ly oxycodone and acetaminophen. While oxycodone is a narcotic pain reliever, acetaminophens is a milder pain reliever which is used to increase the potency of oxycodone. Important information about Percocet Prior to taking Percocet it is necessary to tell the physician about any allergies, asthmatic conditions, liver or kidney problems, injuries, low blood pressure, epilepsies, gastrointestinal problems, hormonal problems, psychiatric and other drug or alcohol addictions. As the drug can cause breathing problems in the unborn infant and can pass into breast milk, it is necessary to inform the doctor about pregnancy and lactation. Only prescribed doses of the drug should be taken as it is addictive and an overdose can damage the liver. The dosage, however, varies with the patient condition and the strength of the medicine is varied accordingly. Interaction with other medicines, food and beverages As acetaminophen may be present in many other combination medicines it is necessary to consult the doctor before taking any other medicines for cold, allergy or pain, muscle relaxants, seizure medication, bladder or urinary medications, bronchodilators, medication for irritable bowel and CNS depressants along with Percocet. When taken along with medicines containing Rifampicin or isoniazid, the risk of side effects increases. Percocet should not be taken along with alcohol and foods such as cabbage. Storage and side effects Percocet should be stored in a closed container at room temperature away from heat, moisture and sunlight. It should be away from children and those past the expiry date should be disposed. Along with its physiological effects most medicines cause certain side effects. The common side effects that can occur when taking Percocet include abdominal or

stomach pain, black or light colored stools and dark urine, chills, dizziness and headache, tiredness, fever, itching, loss of appetite, nausea, blood vomiting and yellowish eyes. Some rare side effects include cough or hoarseness, sore throat or ulcer, lower back pain, painful urination and unusual bleeding. In case of overdose the common symptoms include bluish lips or skin, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, shallow breathing, low pulse rate and improper heart functioning. Emergency help should be taken when the above overdose symptoms occur. Other effects This medication is addictive. The dizziness and lightheadedness caused by this medication may be relieved by getting up slowly from bed or a sitting position. It can lead to anaphylaxis in case of an allergic reaction, which is a life-threatening condition and requires immediate medical attention. Long term use of laxatives can also cause constipation for which laxatives and increased fluid intake may be prescribed. Withdrawal effects As Percocet is addictive it should not be stopped suddenly after consuming for several weeks or months as it can lead to withdrawal symptoms such as abdominal cramps, nausea, anxiety, fever and tremors. Hence the doctor will prescribe gradual reduction of the medication in order to avoid these symptoms. Reference “Percocet.” Drug Information Online. Drugs. com. 2 Nov. 2011. Web. 23 June 2011. <http://www.drugs.com/percocet.html>