

Opioid Addiction: Differences in Oxycodone and Hydrocodone

by Robert Alexander Center | Jan 31, 2023 | Blog



Opioid addiction is a significant issue that impacts millions of individuals around the world. Oxycodone and hydrocodone are two of the most commonly misused [opioids](#).

While both medicines are effective pain relievers, there are several key differences that must be understood. Here at The Robert Alexander Center for Recovery, we work with people looking to overcome their opioid [addictions](#), so we know the impact that these drugs can have on people's lives and health.



Oxycodone

Oxycodone is a synthetic opioid created from thebaine, an alkaloid found naturally in the opium poppy. It is used to treat moderate to severe pain and comes in immediate and extended-release versions. Oxycodone is commonly given under the brand names Percocet and OxyContin.

Hydrocodone

In contrast, hydrocodone is a semi-synthetic opioid synthesized from codeine, a naturally occurring chemical present in opium. It is also used to alleviate pain and comes in both immediate-release and extended-release forms.

The propensity for addiction is one of the primary distinctions between oxycodone and hydrocodone. Oxycodone is thought to be more strong and more addictive than hydrocodone, and it is more likely to cause drowsiness, dizziness, and nausea as well.

Oxycodone withdrawal symptoms are also more severe, making it more difficult to quit. That's something that lots of people who experience opioid addiction first-hand know only too well.

Metabolization

Another difference between the two drugs is the way they are metabolized in the body. Oxycodone is metabolized primarily in the liver, while hydrocodone is metabolized primarily in the gut and liver. This means that people with liver disease may be more at risk of experiencing side effects when taking oxycodone, and that's something that many people are not aware of.

It's also worth noting that both Oxycodone and Hydrocodone can become habit-forming, so use them only as directed by a doctor and never exceed the authorized dosage.



Both substances, when overused or abused, can lead to addiction and overdose, both of which can have serious and even fatal effects. That's when it becomes vital to seek help and focus on overcoming your addiction with the [help of our team of professionals](#).

Both oxycodone and hydrocodone are potent opioid pain relievers that are frequently given to treat moderate to severe pain. While the two substances differ in several ways, such as their propensity for addiction and how they are metabolized in the body, it is crucial to remember that both have the potential to be [addictive](#) and should be used with caution. It's also critical to seek professional help if you suspect you have an opioid addiction.

We Can Help

Here at [The Robert Alexander Center for Recovery](#), we have a range of addiction recovery services that you can make the most of if you're concerned about your use of opioids. It's very easy to fall into an addiction and feel trapped by it.

But with the help of our professional team and tailored approaches to recovery, there's no reason why you can't turn your life around. So don't hesitate to [get in touch](#).



The Robert Alexander Center for Recovery is a brand new, state-of-the-art addiction treatment center in Kentucky, offering evidence-based treatment for substance abuse.

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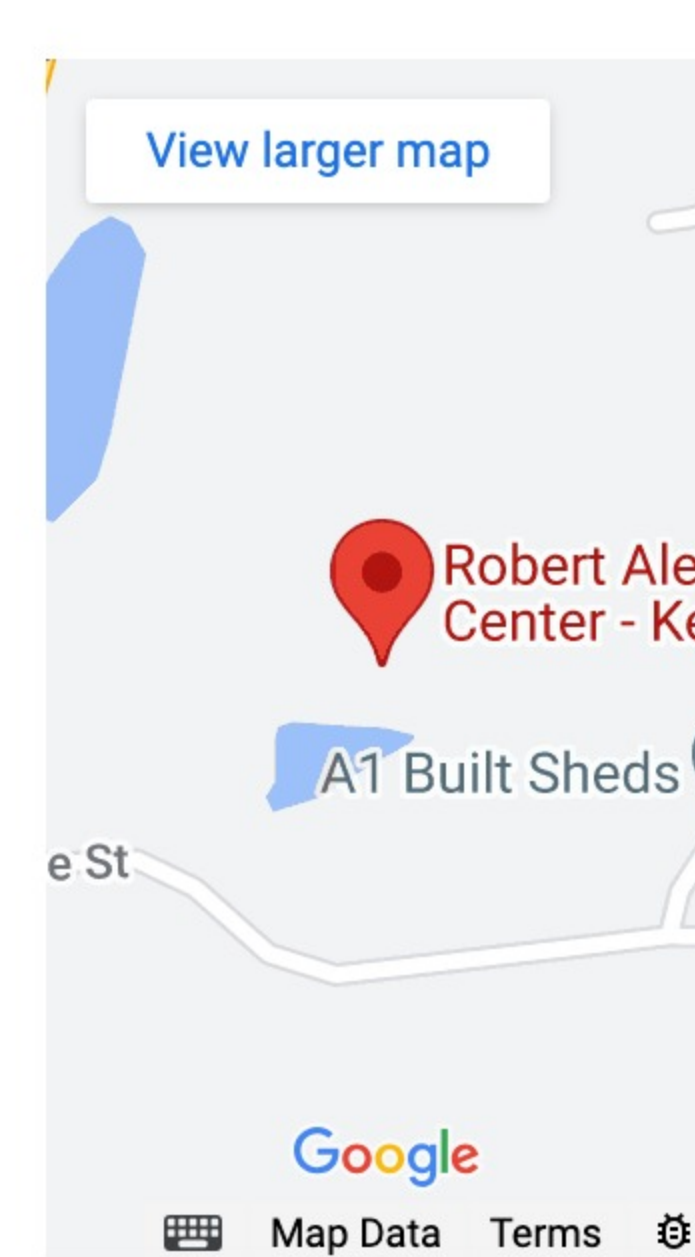
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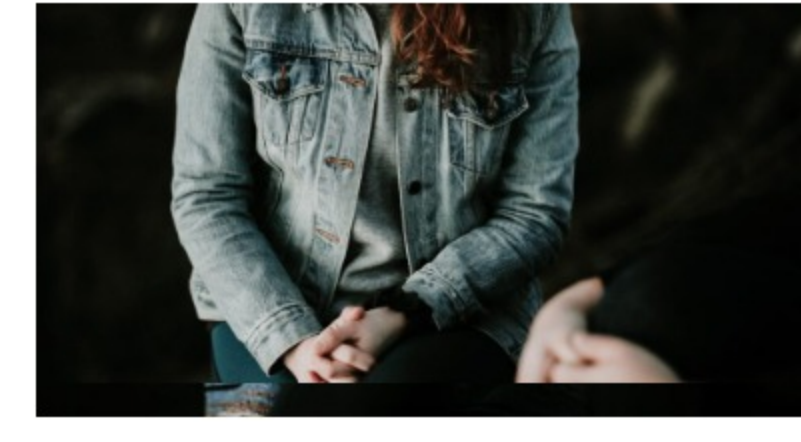
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