

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use OPANA[®] ER safely and effectively. See [full prescribing information for OPANA[®] ER](#).

OPANA[®] ER (oxymorphone hydrochloride) extended-release tablets, for oral use, CII

Initial U.S. Approval: 1959

WARNING: ADDICTION, ABUSE, AND MISUSE; RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (REMS); LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION; ACCIDENTAL INGESTION; NEONATAL OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME; and INTERACTION WITH ALCOHOL; and RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES AND OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS.

See [full prescribing information for complete boxed warning](#).

- OPANA ER exposes users to risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Assess patient's risk before prescribing, and monitor regularly these behaviors and conditions. (5.1)
- To ensure that the benefits of opioid analgesics outweigh the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has required a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for these products. (5.2)
- Serious life-threatening or fatal respiratory depression may occur. Monitor closely, especially upon initiation or following a dose increase. Instruct patients to swallow OPANA ER tablets whole to avoid exposure to a potentially fatal dose of oxymorphone. (5.3)
- Accidental ingestion of OPANA ER, especially by children, can result in fatal overdose of oxymorphone. (5.3)
- Prolonged use of OPANA ER during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening if not recognized and treated. If opioid use is required for a prolonged period in a pregnant woman, advise the patient of the risk of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and ensure that appropriate treatment will be available. (5.4)
- Instruct patients not to consume alcohol or any product containing alcohol while taking OPANA ER because co-ingestion can result in fatal plasma oxymorphone levels. (5.5)
- Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Reserve concomitant prescribing for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate; limit dosages and durations to the minimum required; and follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. (5.5, 7)

RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Dosage and Administration (2.2) 03/2021
Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.3, 5.5) 03/2021

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

OPANA ER is an opioid agonist indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate. (1)

Limitations of Use

- Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with extended-release opioid formulations, reserve OPANA ER for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics or immediate-release opioids) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain. (1)
- OPANA ER is not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic. (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- To be prescribed only by healthcare providers knowledgeable in use of potent opioids for management of chronic pain. (2.1)
- Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals (2.1).
- Individualize dosing based on the severity of pain, patient response, prior analgesic experience, and risk factors for addiction, abuse, and misuse. (2.1)

- Administer on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour prior to or 2 hours after eating. (2.1)
- Discuss availability of naloxone with the patient and caregiver and assess each patient's need for access to naloxone, both when initiating and renewing treatment with OPANA ER. Consider prescribing naloxone based on the patient's risk factors for overdose (2.2, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5).
- For opioid-naïve and opioid non-tolerant patients, initiate treatment with 5 mg tablets orally every 12 hours. (2.3)
- To convert to OPANA ER from another opioid, use available conversion factors to obtain estimated dose. (2.3)
- Dose can be increased every 3 to 7 days, using increments of 5 to 10 mg every 12 hours (i.e., 10 to 20 mg per day). (2.4)
- Do not abruptly discontinue OPANA ER in a physically dependent patient because rapid discontinuation of opioid analgesics has resulted in serious withdrawal symptoms, uncontrolled pain, and suicide. (2.5, 5.14)
- **Mild Hepatic Impairment:** For opioid-naïve patients, initiate treatment with 5 mg and titrate slowly. For patients on prior opioid therapy, reduce starting dose by 50% and titrate slowly. Monitor for signs of respiratory and central nervous system depression. (2.6)
- **Renal Impairment:** For opioid-naïve patients, initiate treatment with 5 mg and titrate slowly. For patients on prior opioid therapy, reduce starting dose by 50% and titrate slowly. Monitor for signs of respiratory and central nervous system depression. (2.7)
- **Geriatric Patients:** Initiate dosing with 5 mg, titrate slowly, and monitor for signs of respiratory and central nervous system depression. (2.8)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Extended-release tablets: 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, and 40 mg

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Significant respiratory depression (4)
- Acute or severe bronchial asthma in an unmonitored setting or in absence of resuscitative equipment. (4)
- Hypersensitivity to oxymorphone (4)
- Moderate or severe hepatic impairment (4)
- Known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction, including paralytic ileus (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- **Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression in Patients with Chronic Pulmonary Disease or in Elderly Cachectic or Debilitated Patients.** Monitor closely particularly during initiation and titration. (5.6)
- **Anaphylaxis, Angioedema, and Other Hypersensitivity Reactions:** If symptoms occur, stop administration immediately, discontinue permanently, and do not rechallenge with any other oxymorphone formulation. (5.7)
- **Adrenal Insufficiency:** If diagnosed, treat with physiologic replacement of corticosteroids, and wean patient off of the opioid. (5.8)
- **Severe Hypotension:** Monitor during dose initiation and titration. Avoid use of OPANA ER in patients with circulatory shock. (5.10)
- **Risks of Use in Patients with Increased Intracranial Pressure, Brain Tumors, Head Injury or Impaired Consciousness:** Monitor for sedation and respiratory depression. Avoid use of OPANA ER in patients with impaired consciousness or coma. (5.11)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse reactions in $\geq 2\%$ of patients in placebo-controlled trials: nausea, constipation, dizziness, somnolence, vomiting, pruritus, headache, sweating increased, dry mouth, sedation, diarrhea, insomnia, fatigue, appetite decreased, and abdominal pain. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc. at 1-800-462-3636 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- **Serotonergic Drugs:** Concomitant use may result in serotonin syndrome. Discontinue OPANA ER if serotonin syndrome is suspected. (7)
- **Mixed Agonist/Antagonist and Partial Agonist Opioid Analgesics:** Avoid use with OPANA ER because they may reduce analgesic effect of OPANA ER or precipitate withdrawal symptoms. (7)
- **Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs):** Can potentiate the effects of oxymorphone. Avoid concomitant use in patients receiving MAOIs or within 14 days of stopping treatment with an MAOI. (7)

USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- **Pregnancy:** May cause fetal harm. (8.1)
- **Lactation:** Not recommended. (8.2)

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

WARNING: ADDICTION, ABUSE, AND MISUSE; RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (REMS); LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION; ACCIDENTAL INGESTION; NEONATAL OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME; INTERACTION WITH ALCOHOL; and RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

WARNING: ADDICTION, ABUSE, AND MISUSE; LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION; ACCIDENTAL INGESTION; NEONATAL OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME; INTERACTION WITH ALCOHOL; and RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS

Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse

OPANA ER exposes patients and other users to the risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Assess each patient's risk prior to prescribing OPANA ER, and monitor all patients regularly for the development of these behaviors and conditions [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS):

To ensure that the benefits of opioid analgesics outweigh the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has required a REMS for these products [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]. Under the requirements of the REMS, drug companies with approved opioid analgesic products must make REMS-compliant education programs available to healthcare providers. Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to

- complete a REMS-compliant education program,
- counsel patients and/or their caregivers, with every prescription, on safe use, serious risks, storage, and disposal of these products,
- emphasize to patients and their caregivers the importance of reading the Medication Guide every time it is provided by their pharmacist, and
- consider other tools to improve patient, household, and community safety.

Life-threatening Respiratory Depression

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of OPANA ER. Monitor for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of OPANA ER or following a dose increase. Instruct patients to swallow OPANA ER tablets whole; crushing, chewing, or dissolving OPANA ER tablets can cause rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxymorphone [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

Accidental Ingestion

Accidental ingestion of even one dose of OPANA ER, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of oxymorphone [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

Prolonged use of OPANA ER during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening if not recognized and treated, and requires management according to protocols developed by neonatology experts. If opioid use is required for a prolonged period in a pregnant woman, advise the patient of the risk of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and ensure that appropriate treatment will be available [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].

Interaction with Alcohol

Instruct patients not to consume alcoholic beverages or use prescription or non-prescription products that contain alcohol while taking OPANA ER. The co-ingestion of alcohol with OPANA ER may result in increased plasma levels and a potentially fatal overdose of oxymorphone [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*].

Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines Or Other CNS Depressants

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death [see *Warnings and Precautions 5.5, Drug Interactions (7)*].

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of OPANA ER and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

OPANA ER is indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate.

Limitations of Usage

- Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with extended-release opioid formulations [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*], reserve OPANA ER for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics or immediate-release opioids) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain.
- OPANA ER is not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Important Dosage and Administration Instructions

OPANA ER should be prescribed only by healthcare professionals who are knowledgeable in the use of potent opioids for the management of chronic pain.

- Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest duration consistent with individual patient treatment goals [*see Warnings and Precautions (5)*]. Initiate the dosing regimen for each patient individually, taking into account the patient's severity of pain, patient response, prior analgesic treatment experience, and risk factors for addiction, abuse, and misuse [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
- Monitor patients closely for respiratory depression, especially within the first 24-72 hours of initiating therapy and following dosage increases with OPANA ER and adjust the dosage accordingly [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

Instruct patients to swallow OPANA ER tablets whole [*see Patient Counseling Information (17)*]. Crushing, chewing, or dissolving OPANA ER tablets will result in uncontrolled delivery of oxycodone and can lead to overdose or death [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

Administer on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour prior to or 2 hours after eating.

OPANA ER is administered orally twice daily (every 12 hours).

2.2 Patient Access to Naloxone for the Emergency Treatment of Opioid Overdose

Discuss the availability of naloxone for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose with the patient and caregiver and assess the potential need for access to naloxone, both when initiating and renewing treatment with OPANA ER [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.3) and Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

Inform patients and caregivers about the various ways to obtain naloxone as permitted by individual state naloxone dispensing and prescribing requirements or guidelines (e.g., by prescription, directly from a pharmacist, or as part of a community-based program).

Consider prescribing naloxone, based on the patient's risk factors for overdose, such as concomitant use of CNS depressants, a history of opioid use disorder, or prior opioid overdose. The presence of risk factors for overdose should not prevent the proper management of pain in any given patient [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.3, 5.5)*].

Consider prescribing naloxone if the patient has household members (including children) or other close contacts at risk for accidental ingestion or overdose.

2.3 Initial Dosage

Use of OPANA ER as the First Opioid Analgesic

Initiate treatment with OPANA ER with the 5 mg tablet orally every 12-hours.

Use of OPANA ER in Patients who are not Opioid Tolerant

The starting dose for patients who are not opioid tolerant is OPANA ER 5 mg orally every 12 hours.

Patients considered opioid tolerant are those taking, for one week or longer, at least 60 mg oral morphine per day, 25 mcg transdermal fentanyl per hour, 30 mg oral oxycodone per day, 8 mg oral hydromorphone per day, 25 mg oral oxymorphone per day, 60 mg oral hydrocodone per day, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid.

Use of higher starting doses in patients who are not opioid tolerant may cause fatal respiratory depression.

Conversion from OPANA to OPANA ER

Patients receiving OPANA may be converted to OPANA ER by administering half the patient's total daily oral OPANA dose as OPANA ER, every 12 hours.

Conversion from Parenteral Oxymorphone to OPANA ER

The absolute oral bioavailability of OPANA ER is approximately 10%. Convert patients receiving parenteral oxymorphone to OPANA ER by administering 10 times the patient's total daily parenteral oxymorphone dose as OPANA ER in two equally divided doses (e.g., [IV dose x 10] divided by 2). Due to patient variability with regards to opioid analgesic response, upon conversion monitor patients closely to evaluate for adequate analgesia and side effects.

Conversion from Other Oral Opioids to OPANA ER

Discontinue all other around-the-clock opioid drugs when OPANA ER therapy is initiated.

While there are useful tables of opioid equivalents readily available, there is substantial inter-patient variability in the relative potency of different opioid drugs and products. As such, it is preferable to underestimate a patient's 24-hour oral oxymorphone requirements and provide rescue medication (e.g., immediate-release opioid) than to overestimate the 24-hour oral oxymorphone requirements which could result in adverse reactions. In an OPANA ER clinical trial with an open-label titration period, patients were converted from their prior opioid to OPANA ER using Table 1 as a guide for the initial OPANA ER dose.

Consider the following when using the information in the below Table 1:

- This is **not** a table of equianalgesic doses.
- The conversion factors in this table are only for the conversion **from** one of the listed oral opioid analgesics **to** OPANA ER.
- This table **cannot** be used to convert **from** OPANA ER **to** another opioid. Doing so will result in an over-estimation of the dose of the new opioid and may result in fatal overdose.

Table 1: CONVERSION FACTORS TO OPANA ER

Prior Oral Opioid	Approximate Oral Conversion Factor
Oxymorphone	1
Hydrocodone	0.5
Oxycodone	0.5
Methadone	0.5
Morphine	0.333

To calculate the estimated OPANA ER dose using the above table:

- For patients on a single opioid, sum the current total daily dose of the opioid and then multiply the total daily dose by the conversion factor to calculate the approximate oral (active opioid) daily dose.
- For patients on a regimen of more than one opioid, calculate the approximate oral (active opioid) dose for each opioid and sum the totals to obtain the approximate total (active opioid) daily dose.
- For patients on a regimen of fixed-ratio opioid/non-opioid analgesic products, use only the opioid component of these products in the conversion

Always round the dose down, if necessary, to the appropriate OPANA ER strength(s) available.

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