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On Drugs and Therapeutics

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IN BRIEF

In Brief: Immediate-Release Oxycodone (*Oxecta*) for Pain

The FDA has approved a new tablet formulation of immediate-release (IR) oxycodone (*Oxecta* – King) for management of acute and chronic moderate to severe pain.

Oxecta uses a tamper-resistant technology designed to deter oxycodone abuse by injection or nasal snorting. Dissolving the crushed tablet in water or alcohol converts it into a viscous gel mixture, making it difficult to inject. Crushing the tablet and inhaling it through the nose causes burning and irritation. Whether the new formulation will actually prevent abuse of the drug has not been established. *Oxecta* is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance.¹

Table 1. Some IR Oxycodone Tablets

Drug	Formulations	Cost ¹
<i>Oxecta</i> (King)	5, 7.5 mg tabs	267.00 ²
Oxycodone – generic	5, 10, 15, 20, 30 mg tabs	15.54
<i>Roxicodone</i> (Xanodyne)	5, 15, 30 mg tabs	48.64

1. Wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) of 100 tablets at lowest available strength. Source: PricePointRx™. Reprinted with permission by FDB. All rights reserved. ©2012. <http://www.firstdatabank.com/support/drug-pricing-policy.aspx>. Accessed February 24, 2012. Actual retail prices may be higher.

2. Price for 5- and 7.5-mg tablets is the same.

In patients who have not been receiving opioid analgesics, the recommended starting dosage of *Oxecta* is 5 to 15 mg every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain. Oxycodone has no analgesic ceiling, but dosage is usually limited by its adverse effects. Use of similar abuse-resistant tablets has been associated with reports of difficulty swallowing the tablets.² *Oxecta* tablets should be swallowed whole and taken with enough water to ensure complete swallowing.

1. Drugs for pain. *Treat Guidel Med Lett* 2010; 8:25.
2. US Food and Drug Administration. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. *Oxecta* (oxycodone HCl) tablets. Summary Review. Available at www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda. Accessed February 24, 2012.

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