

CO-CODAMOL

History	<p>Codeine is an opiate drug used to treat mild to moderate pain. It is available either from doctors as a prescription only medicine or directly from a pharmacy combined in lower doses with aspirin, ibuprofen or paracetamol. Co-codamol combines codeine and paracetamol. It is used to treat pain that does not respond to simple painkillers. Many people whose use of the drug is problematic were originally prescribed co-codamol by their doctor.</p>
Street name	Cody
Type	Opiate
Drug Effect	<p>Users experience feelings of warmth and well-being, relaxation and sleepiness. Negative effects include nausea, constipation, confusion, sweating, itching, mood swings and feelings of laziness.</p>
Dependency	Yes.
Description	Codeine is available in tablet form, as a syrup and as a solution for injection
Street use	<p>It is normally swallowed. Some people misusing the medicine prefer to crush up the tablets and snort them and some may try to inject them. Tablets of codeine can cost between £1-2.50 per tablet obtained from illicit sources.</p>
Withdrawal	<p>Yes, like all opiates, codeine is addictive. Over time it can produce cravings and a psychological desire to keep on using. Tolerance can also build so that users have to take more just to get the same effects. Physical dependence is common in regular users. The withdrawal symptoms include nervous tremors, anxiety, yawning, sweating, runny nose, sleep disturbance, nausea, goose-bumps, restlessness, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and muscle spasms.</p>
Long term use	<p>The main risk of long-term, heavy use is liver damage from the high dose of paracetamol. Codeine also causes severe constipation.</p>
Overdose	<p>Codeine can suppress normal breathing and increase the risk of respiratory arrest. Mixing too much codeine with other depressant drugs such as alcohol, benzodiazepines like diazepam, or other opiate drug, increase the risk of overdose and death.</p> <p>Excessive use of paracetamol can cause really serious problems in overdose - with risks of kidney failure, liver failure and of indigestion or bleeding from the stomach, which can be fatal.</p>

Legal Status

Available on prescription and over the counter.