Hydrocodone also known as Vicodin®, Lortab®, Vicoprofen®, Lorcet®, Vike, Watson 387 is a prescription analgesic, or pain medicine, and an anti-tussive (cough suppressant). It is used to treat moderate or moderately severe pain. Often times it is found in combination with Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Ibuprofen.

So how does it work?
Hydrocodone works similar to morphine. It is called an “opioid analgesic” which means that it blocks the opioid receptors in your body, mainly in your brain. Your body uses these receptors to feel pain. When the receptors are blocked, your body is unable to feel the pain.

What happens when Hydrocodone is mixed with....

Alcohol?
When mixed with alcohol, hydrocodone causes increased dizziness, drowsiness and increased CNS depression. It can also lead to decreased inhibitions.

Marijuana?
When mixed with marijuana, increased central nervous system depression may occur. It may also lead to decreased inhibitions.

Is there a chance this substance could contain contaminants if it is obtained “on the street”? If so, what are the effects of these contaminants?
Hydrocodone may be obtained “on the street”. If it is bought “on the street” it has the potential to contain contaminants or not be the medication it is marketed as. If the substance is contaminated, the risk to the consumer will be dependent on the contaminant or substance. Contaminants vary greatly and there is no specific contaminant associated with this agent.

What if you take Hydrocodone while you are pregnant
Hydrocodone is a pregnancy category D which means that there is evidence of adverse effects on the fetus if used in pregnancy. Once the baby is born it can experience withdrawal symptoms if hydrocodone has been used throughout the pregnancy. If used close to the time of delivery the baby can experience respiratory depression.

Short term effects of taking Hydrocodone

Judgment
• Use could result in sedation, dizziness and CNS (central nervous system) depression which may impair judgment.

Memory
• Use could result in sedation and CNS depression which may impair memory.

Health
• Use of this agent may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
• Hydrocodone can also cause constipation, nausea and vomiting.
• Hydrocodone can cause respiratory depression (slowing or stopping of breathing) at higher doses which can be fatal.

Long term effects of taking Hydrocodone

Judgment
Use could result in sedation, dizziness and CNS depression which may impair judgment.

Memory
Use could result in sedation and CNS depression which may impair memory.

Health
• Long term use of this agent may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
• Stopping hydrocodone abruptly after long term use may result in withdrawal symptoms such as sweating, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and agitation.
• Long term use may result in tolerance, which means the body adapts to the medication and a larger dose is required to achieve the same effect.
• Hydrocodone can cause you to stop breathing and result in death.