



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____



How do Opioids work?

Opioids are powerful drugs derived from the poppy plant. Opioids affect nerve cells (neurons) in your brain and body. They tell the brain to **block pain** and can also make you feel calm and happy. They include **opium, heroine, morphine** and **codeine**.

Prescription Opioids

People who have major surgeries including dental work, serious injuries, or cancer are sometimes prescribed opioids to help **manage their pain**. But opioids can quickly trigger **addiction** when used improperly. If a person misuses the drug and doesn't take them as prescribed, opioids can have *dangerous consequences*.

The most commonly used prescription opioids are **oxycodone** (OxyContin®), **hydrocodone** (Vicodin®), **codeine** and **morphine**.



Opioids & the Brain



PREVIEW

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- *Feelings of calm, sleepiness, confusion*
- *Slowed or stopped breathing*
- *Nausea, vomiting*
- *Constipation*



- *Addiction*
- *Heart infection*
- *Lung infection*
- *Muscle pain*



How do you become addicted to opioids?

Over time, the body gets used to having the drug and feels terrible without it. **Withdrawal** is like having the flu but much worse, and it can make it hard to stop taking the drug. If a person starts seeking and taking an opioid despite how it is interfering with work, school, or relationships, it is called **addiction**.





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What are Opioids?

Why are Opioids prescribed?

The most commonly used prescription opioids are: _____

PREVIEW

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List Short-Term Effects:

List Long-Term Effects:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Why do people become addicted to Opioids? _____
