

Diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis? [Biologics can help >>](#)



Generic Name: [acetaminophen/hydrocodone](#) (a-SEET-a-MIN-oh-fen/HYE-droe-KOE-done)

Brand Name: Examples include Dolacet and Stagesic

Stagesic contains acetaminophen. Severe and sometimes fatal liver problems, including the need for liver transplant, have been reported with the use of acetaminophen. Most cases of these liver problems occurred in patients taking excessive doses of acetaminophen (more than 4,000 mg per day). Also, patients who developed these liver problems were often using more than 1 medicine that contained acetaminophen. Discuss any questions or concerns with your doctor.



Overview

Side Effects

Dosage

Interactions

Professional

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Stagesic is used for:

Treating moderate to moderately severe pain. It may also be used for other conditions as determined by your doctor.

Stagesic is an analgesic combination. Acetaminophen works by lowering a chemical in the brain that stimulates pain nerves. Hydrocodone, an opioid (narcotic) analgesic, works by binding to receptors in the brain and nervous system used by the body's natural "pain relievers." The combination may provide better pain relief than either medicine alone.

Do NOT use Stagesic if:

- you are allergic to any ingredient in Stagesic
- you have diarrhea associated with poisoning, antibiotic use, or a bacterial infection (from eating or drinking contaminated food or water)
- you are taking sodium oxybate (GHB)

Contact your doctor or health care provider right away if any of these apply to you.




SLIDESHOW

[Knowledge Center: Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)

Before using Stagesic:

Some medical conditions may interact with Stagesic. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any medical conditions, especially if any of the following apply to you:

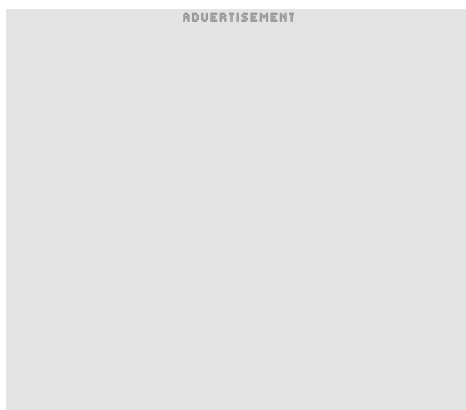
- if you are [pregnant](#) , planning to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding

- if you are taking any prescription or nonprescription medicine, herbal preparation, or dietary supplement
- if you have allergies to medicines, foods, or other substances
- if you are allergic to other narcotic medicines (eg, medicines that contain codeine, morphine, oxycodone)
- if you have or have ever had alcoholism, substance abuse, narcotic dependence, or if you consume more than 3 alcoholic drinks per day
- if you have a history of suicidal thoughts or behavior
- if you have a head injury, increased pressure in the head, a brain injury or tumor, epilepsy, or seizures
- if you are having an asthma attack
- if you have an acute stomach or intestinal problem, chronic inflammation and ulceration of the bowel, or you have had recent abdominal surgery
- if you have adrenal gland problems; enlargement of the prostate gland; heart failure or lung disease, including shortness of breath; liver or kidney problems; thyroid disease; urinary blockage; or viral hepatitis

Some MEDICINES MAY INTERACT with Stagesic. Tell your health care provider if you are taking any other medicines, especially any of the following:

- Barbiturate anesthetics (eg, thiopental), cimetidine, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) (eg, phenelzine), sodium oxybate (GHB), or tricyclic antidepressants (eg, amitriptyline) because serious side effects, such as increased sleepiness and decreased ability to breathe, may occur
- Naltrexone because it may decrease the effectiveness of Stagesic and withdrawal symptoms may occur in patients who have become physically dependent on opioids

This may not be a complete list of all interactions that may occur. Ask your health care provider if Stagesic may interact with other medicines that you take. Check with your health care provider before you start, stop, or change the dose of any medicine.



How to use Stagesic:

Use Stagesic as directed by your doctor. Check the label on the medicine for exact dosing instructions.

- Take Stagesic by mouth with or without food. If stomach upset occurs, take with food to reduce stomach irritation.
- If you miss a dose of Stagesic, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take 2 doses at once.

Ask your health care provider any questions you may have about how to use Stagesic.

Important safety information:

- Stagesic may cause drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, or light-headedness. These effects may be worse if you take it with alcohol or certain medicines. Use Stagesic with caution. Do not drive or perform other possibly unsafe tasks until you know how you react to it.
- Do not drink alcohol or use medicines that may cause drowsiness (eg, sleep aids, muscle relaxers) while you are using Stagesic; it may add to their effects. Ask your pharmacist if you have questions about which medicines may cause drowsiness.
- Stagesic may cause dizziness, light-headedness, or fainting; alcohol, hot weather, exercise, or fever may increase these effects. To prevent them, sit up or stand slowly, especially in the morning. Sit or lie down at the first sign of any of these effects.
- Some of these products contain sulfites. Sulfites may cause an allergic reaction in some patients (eg, asthma patients). If you have ever had an allergic reaction to sulfites, ask your pharmacist if your product has sulfites in it.
- Stagesic has acetaminophen in it. Before you start any new medicine, check the label to see if it has acetaminophen in it too. If

it does or if you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

- Stagesic may harm your liver. Your risk may be greater if you drink alcohol while you are using Stagesic. Talk to your doctor before you take Stagesic or other fever reducers if you drink more than 3 drinks with alcohol per day.
- Use Stagesic with caution in the ELDERLY; they may be more sensitive to its effects, especially possible decreased breathing and drowsiness.
- Stagesic should not be used in CHILDREN; safety and effectiveness in children have not been confirmed.
- PREGNANCY and BREAST-FEEDING: If you become pregnant, contact your doctor. You will need to discuss the benefits and risks of using Stagesic while you are pregnant. Stagesic is found in breast milk. Do not breast-feed while taking Stagesic.

When used for long periods of time or at high doses, Stagesic may not work as well and may require higher doses to obtain the same effect as when originally taken. This is known as TOLERANCE. Talk with your doctor if Stagesic stops working well. Do not take more than prescribed.

Some people who use Stagesic for a long time may develop a need to continue taking it. People who take high doses are also at risk. This is known as DEPENDENCE or addiction.

If you suddenly stop taking Stagesic, you may experience WITHDRAWAL symptoms including anxiety; diarrhea; fever, runny nose, or sneezing; goose bumps and abnormal skin sensations; nausea; vomiting; pain; rigid muscles; rapid heartbeat; seeing, hearing, or feeling things that are not there; shivering or tremors; sweating; and trouble sleeping.

Possible side effects of Stagesic:

All medicines may cause side effects, but many people have no, or minor, side effects. Check with your doctor if any of these most COMMON side effects persist or become bothersome:

Blurred vision; constipation; dizziness; drowsiness; flushing; light-headedness; nausea; vomiting.

Seek medical attention right away if any of these SEVERE side effects occur:

Severe allergic reactions (rash; hives; itching; difficulty breathing; tightness in the chest; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue); anxiety; change in the amount of urine produced; fear; hearing change or loss; interrupted breathing; mental or mood changes; unusual tiredness.

This is not a complete list of all side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, contact your health care provider. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. To report side effects to the appropriate agency, please read the [Guide to Reporting Problems to FDA](#)

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If OVERDOSE is suspected:

Contact 1-800-222-1222 (the American Association of Poison Control Centers), your local [poison control center](#), or emergency room immediately. Symptoms may include bluish skin; cold/clammy skin; difficult or slow breathing; drowsiness leading to unresponsiveness or coma; excessive sweating; loss of function in the heart and lungs; nausea and vomiting; pinpoint pupils; seizure; stomach or intestinal pain.

Proper storage of Stagesic:

Store Stagesic at room temperature, between 68 and 77 degrees F (20 and 25 degrees C). Store away from heat, moisture, and light. Do not refrigerate. Do not freeze. Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep Stagesic out of the reach of children and away from pets.

General information:

- If you have any questions about Stagesic, please talk with your doctor, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

- Stagesic is to be used only by the patient for whom it is prescribed. Do not share it with other people.
- If your symptoms do not improve or if they become worse, check with your doctor.
- Check with your pharmacist about how to dispose of unused medicine.

This information is a summary only. It does not contain all information about Stagesic. If you have questions about the medicine you are taking or would like more information, check with your doctor, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

Review Date: March 1, 2016



Disclaimer: This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only your health care provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for you. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from your health care provider. You must talk with your healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

Next → [Side Effects](#)



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- Other brands: [Norco](#), [Vicodin](#), [Lortab](#), [Lorcet](#), [More \(12\)](#) »

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DRUG STATUS



Availability
Prescription only



Pregnancy Category
Risk cannot be ruled out



CSA Schedule
High potential for abuse



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Stagesic Rating

No Reviews - [Be the first!](#)

8 / 0 0

Drug Class

[Narcotic analgesic combinations](#)

Related Drugs

Back Pain

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Pain

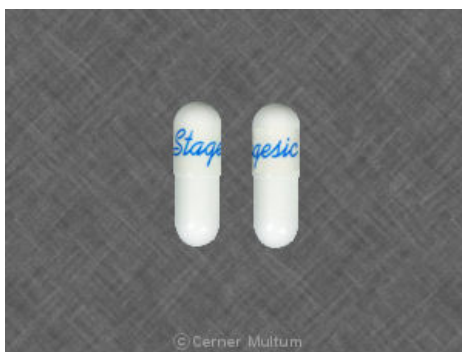
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Cough

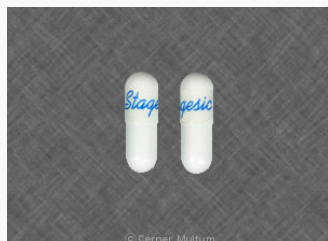
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Stagesic Images



Stagesic (acetaminophen / hydrocodone) 500 mg / 5 mg



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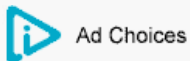
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