

- Fixed-dose combination products, such as a new analgesic agent combining 7.5 mg oxycodone with 325 mg acetaminophen (paracetamol) in an extended-release formulation, offer an important new option in treating acute pain.
- The combination of oxycodone and acetaminophen is synergistic and opioid sparing.
- This new product (XARTEMIS™ XR, Mallinckrodt Brand Pharmaceuticals) has a novel biphasic-layered matrix that may deter abusers.
- Clinicians and their patients must be aware of the patient's cumulative daily acetaminophen intake, as acetaminophen may be hepatotoxic at supratherapeutic doses; adult daily dose should not exceed 4,000 mg.
- Postsurgical pain, although well studied and with a known trajectory, is often undertreated and, when left untreated, may transition into persistent or even chronic pain syndromes.
- Long-acting analgesics may offer advantages in treating acute pain, such as postoperative pain, in that it avoids potential “analgesic gaps.”

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