

painKILLER

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In early November, I had surgery on my right knee to take out a benign tumor. I healed very quickly, and I even walked to my recovery room. I felt very little pain, as my scar was small. I was expecting to be prescribed Ibuprofen or Tylenol because a couple months before I had a gallstone and had to have surgery and that's what I was given to deal with pain. That surgery was the most painful thing I've ever experienced, but the one on my leg was a moderate amount of pain. I was in shock when I was prescribed Hydrocodone for a little surgery. When the nurse gave me the bottle, she acted as it was nothing. "Just make sure you eat a snack before you take it and it may make you nauseous," she said. No warning. Nothing warning me how addictive these little pills were and how they could change my life.

As of right now, there is no medical test that can tell a doctor how much pain someone is feeling. Most doctors rely on the 1-10 pain scale, but that can't detect whether the patient is lying or not. So how does that doctor respond when someone is claiming strong pain?

When someone claims great amount of pain the doctor prescribes greater pain drugs. This has become a worldwide issue all over the world, specifically in America. The Opioids Epidemic. Opioids are a class of drug that include the illegal drug "Heroin" and are pain relievers such as Oxycodone, Hydrocodone (Vicodin), Codeine, Morphine, etc. According to talbott.com, more than 46 people died each day in 2016 from drug overdoses involving prescription Opioids.

This all began in the 1990s when pharmaceutical companies began to market misleading information about the safety and efficacy of the drugs, to make as much money as possible. Physicians who were often stressed or tired over patients who were hard to treat would prescribe these addictive drugs. They would prescribe so many pills that they would fill up the whole bottle, making it easier for people to become addicted to them. According to Washington University of Medicine, more than 80% of opioid prescriptions in the world are written by doctors in the United States, and not all those drugs are used to treat pain.

Doctors are overprescribing many of these addicting drugs but not many people are paying attention to it, why?

One of the main reasons why it seems doctors prescribe these addictive drugs is because the opioid manufacturers pay these doctors to prescribe them.

According to Mercola.com, the more opioids doctors prescribe, the more money they make. While it's not illegal for these companies to pay doctors, it is illegal for these doctors to prescribe opioids for money. The problem though is that this creates a very thin line on what's legal and what's illegal. It's quite disturbing to think about how doctors are supposed to make you feel better, but you can come out of there with an addiction worse than before. If you think about it, it's almost like if doctors are legal drug dealers.

STATISTICS:

- From 1999 to 2017, more than 700,000 people have died from drug overdose.
- 11.4 million people have misused prescription opioids.
- The U.S provides 80% of the world's opioid supply
- In 2012, 12 states had more opioid prescriptions than people
- More Americans die from Drug Overdoses than in car crashes
- One person dies every 19 minutes from drug overdose in the united states.

- Talbott Recovery & The Jennifer Act websites

