

That study demonstrated that acetaminophen alone was as effective in pain relief as acetaminophen plus DPX. In other words, the analgesic property of this combination can be attributed to the acetaminophen by itself.

Similarly, in his review Miller discovered only one good study comparing aspirin with aspirin plus DPX.¹⁰⁴ The authors of that study found that propoxyphene napsylate plus aspirin was "significantly inferior to aspirin plus either codeine or oxycodon; but not significantly different from aspirin alone." In other words, here once again, the DPX combination analgesic provided no significant benefit over plain aspirin.

Finally, of only five double-blind studies on DPX and aspirin, phenacetin, and caffeine (APC) combinations, Miller found that two compared DPX and APC with APC alone. One of these two studies found that DPX Napsylate plus APC was superior to APC alone.¹⁰⁵ This alleged superiority of DPX-APC over APC alone must be interpreted in light of the above-mentioned well-designed studies where no such difference in pain relief attributable to DPX could be detected. That is, the alleged advantage of DPX plus other analgesics must be quantitatively minute since none but this particular Lilly study could discover it.

Thus Miller states: "There is little evidence that combinations of PRX¹ [i.e. DPX] with other analgesics are superior to one analgesic alone. Aspirin or acetaminophen appears to be just as effective when given alone as when given with PRX."

In conclusion he declares:

"It is now more doubtful than ever that PRX HC₁ [i.e. DPX] 65 mg provides an analgesic effect equal to that of aspirin 650 mg... There is no conclusive evidence that combinations of PRX with other analgesics are more effective than PRX or other analgesics alone. In view of these findings, the continued widespread use of PRX preparations is perplexing."

It is clear that from a therapeutic standpoint, little if anything would be lost by restricting the availability of DPX. DPX is apparently no more effective in pain relief than aspirin or acetaminophen.