Following a 10mg oral dose of hydrocodone bitartrate, the drug is metabolized in the liver through N-demethylation and 6-keto reduction to the active metabolite. Hydrocodone exhibits a complex pattern of elimination, and the half-life was determined to be 3.8 ± 0.3 hours. Throughout most body tissues, hydrocodone has a plasma half-life of approximately 1.5 hours.

Hydrocodone bitartrate is a C18H21NO3.C4H6O6.21⁄2H2O hydrate (2:5) with the name 4,5crystalline powder. It is affected by light.

Mr. Vicodin ES is indicated for the relief of moderate to moderately severe pain. It is effective in the short-term management of pain in patients with acute abdominal conditions. In the course of patients with head injuries, the hydrocodone may produce dose-related central nervous system and smooth muscle effects on the cardiovascular or respiratory systems; minimal effects on central nervous system and smooth muscle. The behavior of the individual may be altered, and hypotension may occur in patients with pulmonary disease.

Hydrocodone and the major metabolites of hydrocodone are distributed throughout most body tissues, and accumulation of the parent compound and/or the metabolites may be increased in patients with hepatic disease or other drug therapy.

Hydrocodone may cause confusion and over-dosage. Drowsiness, mental impairment, respiratory depression, and sedation may occur. Cases of hearing impairment or visual disturbances have been reported. Potential effects of high dosage are listed in the OVERDOSAGE section.