

Warning Signs of Abuse

- Slurred Speech
- Impaired judgement and difficulty communicating
- Seizures
- Breathing Issues
- Fatigue and irregular sleeping habits
- Isolation from family and friends
- Poor academic performance and lack of interest in school
- Extreme changes in appearance and attitude
- Injection wounds or track marks

How to Identify an Overdose

- Slow or excessive breathing
- Excessive sweating
- Blue lips
- Gasping, snoring or gurgling.

What to do if an overdose occurs

You should call 9-1-1 immediately and inform paramedics what was taken and how much. If on hand, you should administer Naloxone (Narcan), and tell the paramedics when they arrive. Naloxone should be given to ANY suspected drug overdose, to reverse possible opioid effects, even though it is often ineffective in treating an overdose of Xylazine. If trained, give rescue breaths since Xylazine causes breathing to slow down dramatically. Stay with the person until first responders arrive.



Ready to see what you've learned about Xylazine? Take this quiz and find out.

1. Narcan can be used to reverse the effects of Xylazine overdose.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. In most cases, people are unaware that Xylazine is in the drugs they are using, which increases the risk of overdose.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Which one is NOT a street name for Xylazine:
 - a. Philly Dope
 - b. Tranq
 - c. X-Zine
 - d. Zombie Drug
4. Xylazine is a non-opioid tranquilizer, which makes it safe for human consumption.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Xylazine is most often mixed with other drugs to lengthen the "high". One such drug is:
 - a. Fentanyl
 - b. Heroin
 - c. Cocaine
 - d. All of the above.

Answers: 1.B 2.A 3.C 4.B 5.D



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STAY SAFE SERIES

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TRANQ

XYLAZINE



A DEADLY MIXTURE

WHAT IS XYLAZINE?

Xylazine, a non-opioid tranquilizer used by veterinarians, was not made for human consumption. It is a central nervous system depressant that can be inhaled, injected or taken orally. Xylazine is most often combined with two or more substances, such as Fentanyl, cocaine and heroin. When combined with these drugs, the risk of a fatal overdose increases tremendously. On the street, Xylazine-mixed drugs are often called “Tranq”, “Tranq Dope”, “Philly Dope”, “Sleep Cut” and “Zombie Drug”.

STOP! HAZARDOUS ROAD AHEAD!

Highly Dangerous Stuff!

According to the DEA’s official website, “Xylazine is among the deadliest drug threat the United States has ever faced, Fentanyl, even deadlier.” Xylazine and Fentanyl mixtures have been seized in 48 of 50 states and the DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of Fentanyl powder and 7% of Fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained Xylazine. In a few years’ time, overdose deaths increased by 103% in the Northeast, 516% in the Midwest, 750% in the West and a whopping 1127% in the South! When injecting drugs that contain Xylazine, people often develop severe wounds and rotting of the skin tissue, which can lead to amputation.

SHORT & LONG TERM EFFECTS

Short Term Effects: Long Term Effects:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Drowsiness | • Addiction |
| • Dry mouth | • Depression |
| • Hypertension | • Dysphoria |
| • Reduced heart rate and blood pressure | • Psychosis |
| • Amnesia | • Skin ulcers |
| • Breathing problems | • Possible amputations |
| • Depression | • Painful withdrawal symptoms similar to heroin |
| • Risk of overdose or death | • Risk of overdose or death |



NALOXONE (NARCAN), NOPE!

You heard that right! Narcan cannot reverse the effects of Xylazine overdose. The reason: because Xylazine is not an opioid, so it does not address the impact of Xylazine on breathing, which has experts concerned that the growing prevalence of Xylazine in the illicit drug market may render Naloxone much less effective when treating overdoses, leading to an increase in deaths.

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Why is Xylazine mixed with other illicit drugs?

Let’s be honest. Why do drug users use drugs? Well, the simple answer is, they want the “high” that comes with its usage. What they forget about is the effects. Mixing Xylazine with other illicit drugs like Fentanyl, heroin or cocaine has been known to extend the “high” that you get from those drugs. However, most people who use these drugs aren’t seeking out Xylazine and don’t even realize that it has been added to the drug. In most cases, people are unaware that Xylazine is in the drugs they are using, which increases the risk of overdose.



CHASE'S STORY

Chase, a seventeen-year-old junior in high school, loved having fun with his friends, bike riding and participating on the chess team at school. His grades were excellent, and he had already applied to several colleges in his home state.

One day, Chase felt tremendous pain in the back of his mouth. After a trip to the dentist, he was told that he needed to have his wisdom teeth removed. The following week, the procedure was performed, and Chase was prescribed a pain medication.

After he finished the prescription, Chase noticed that he still craved the feeling he had while on the medication, so he found ways to get more. As Chase grew from a teen to an adult, his parents noticed a big change in him. He failed most of his classes his senior year and dropped out before he could graduate. He was also arrested several times for possession of drugs, shoplifting and disturbing the peace. His parents tried to get him help, admitting him several times to different treatment centers, but as soon as he got better, he somehow fell back into addiction. Chase overdosed several times and Narcan was used each time to save his life.

One evening, Chase’s parents came home and noticed him on the floor, sitting against the kitchen wall, barely breathing. His mother quickly grabbed the Narcan and administered it to Chase, but it seemed to have little effect. This wasn’t normal. Chase’s parents always had a supply of Narcan in the house for this exact reason. This wasn’t the first time his mother had to use Narcan to save his life. Chase’s father called 9-1-1 and the first responders showed up within minutes. They tried to revive him, but it was too late. According to the local coroner, Chase died from an accidental overdose of Fentanyl, mixed with Xylazine. Officials told Chase’s parents that because Xylazine was mixed with Fentanyl, Narcan couldn’t reverse the effects of the overdose..

Chase, at the age of 21, left behind his parents, two sisters, his girlfriend, and a two-year-old son.

