

Drug Facts: Xylazine



What Is Xylazine?

Xylazine, also known as “tranq,” is a non-opioid, central nervous system depressant that is approved for use in veterinary medicine. It is not approved for human use. However, xylazine has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths in the United States.

Why Do People Take Xylazine?

People often take xylazine unknowingly. Individuals who manufacture and sell illicit drugs frequently add xylazine to cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl. When someone purchases these drugs online or in the community, they are often unaware that xylazine has been added to them.

How Does Xylazine Affect The Body?

Xylazine can cause drowsiness and amnesia and can slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. Repeated xylazine use is associated with skin ulcers, abscesses, and related complications. When xylazine is taken in combination with opioids such as heroin and fentanyl, it increases the risk of a life-threatening overdose.

How Is A Xylazine Overdose Treated?

Experts recommend administering naloxone in the event of a suspected xylazine overdose. Naloxone is the medication used to reverse an opioid overdose. Although xylazine is not an opioid, it is often combined with opioids, so naloxone will reverse the adverse effects of opioids. However, it will not address the impact of xylazine on breathing, so it is essential to call 9-1-1 to report the suspected overdose before administering naloxone.

Can A Person Become Addicted To Xylazine?

Yes, an individual can become addicted to xylazine with repeated use. Because xylazine is often combined with opioids, a person can become addicted to both substances. Individuals looking for treatment can call the 24/7 Access Line at 1.800.563.4086.

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Connecticut Resources

**CT Department of Mental
Health and Addiction
Services**

www.ct.gov/DMHAS

Access Line
1.800.563.4086

National Resources

**Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services
Administration**

www.samhsa.gov

**National Institute on Drug
Abuse**

www.nida.nih.gov



Wheeler

**CONNECTICUT
Clearinghouse**
a program of the Connecticut Center
for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

800.232.4424 (phone)
www.ctclearinghouse.org

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness