

WHAT IS ACETYL FENTANYL?

Acetyl fentanyl, or synthetic heroin, is an opioid analgesic derived from fentanyl, a pain relieving drug commonly used to treat cancer patients and those with chronic pain. It is an extremely potent, man-made synthetic drug that has led to a growing number of overdose deaths in recent years.

Acetyl fentanyl was created in the 1960s around the same time as fentanyl. Acetyl fentanyl has never been approved for medical use.

Street names for acetyl fentanyl include: Bud Light, Income Tax, China White, Goodfella, Jackpot, and TNT.

WHAT MAKES IT SO DANGEROUS?

Acetyl fentanyl isn't made in controlled laboratories. The drug isn't checked for purity. There aren't any standards for its production or ingredients. What is available on the street could be

contaminated with other substances, might be sold as another drug, and probably varies in strength.

Acetyl fentanyl can be up to 15 times more powerful than heroin and 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. When the potency of the drug varies from batch to batch, just a small error in dosing can lead to death. And here is the real problem with abusing acetyl fentanyl: users never know how strong the drug is. Take too much and death by overdose is almost guaranteed.

Combining acetyl fentanyl with other opioids, amphetamines, or cocaine, increases the chance of overdose.

WHAT'S IN THAT WHITE POWDER?

Acetyl fentanyl can resemble heroin in consistency, packaging, and color. There have been many recent overdose deaths because abusers thought they were taking heroin and it turned out to be acetyl fentanyl. Dealers have been mixing heroin with acetyl fentanyl to save money and increase the high. The end and sometimes deadly result is that users have no idea what they are putting into their bodies.

HOW IS IT USED?

Acetyl fentanyl is either injected into the veins, snorted or taken as a pill. In pill form, acetyl fentanyl is often packaged to look like oxycodone, which again may result in overdose death.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.intheknowzone.com for more information on substance abuse. Increase your knowledge using the information, statistics, images, and links. Test your understanding with a quick quiz.

**Don't stay in the dark.
Get In the Know!**

in the know

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ACETYL FENTANYL

dangerously potent



Acetyl fentanyl can be up to fifteen times stronger than heroin.



WHAT DOES IT DO?

Acetyl fentanyl's short-term effects are just like those of heroin or morphine. It creates a rush of euphoria and relaxation. However, it lead to difficulty coordinating movements, as well as feeling itchy or nauseous. Breathing slows down, which may ultimately result in coma or death.

The long-term effects of acetyl fentanyl are unclear, since survival rates are too low for experts to know what the drug does to the body over time. Opioid abuse causes nerve damage within the brain, which prevents cells from creating endorphins and makes the body unable to stop pain on its own. Chronic use leads to hormonal imbalances, osteoporosis, and emotional problems.

SOME OF THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR TAKING ACETYL FENTANYL INCLUDE:

ADDICTION & DEPENDENCE

Just one use can be enough to develop an addiction to opioids. Once this sets in, there is a compulsive desire to use the drug, no matter the cost or consequence.

The more acetyl fentanyl is used, the higher tolerance becomes. Larger and larger doses will be necessary to achieve the same high. When someone becomes tolerant to the drug, addiction soon follows. Once physical dependence occurs, the process of quitting includes a long and difficult withdrawal process.

WITHDRAWAL...

Upon quitting, withdrawal symptoms include anxiety, muscle aches, insomnia, and excessive sweating. After the first day, there is bone pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, high blood pressure, and the chills. The withdrawal process can last for up to two weeks and is very unpleasant.

AND RELAPSE.

Ninety percent of people in recovery relapse in the first year after completing a traditional drug treatment program. Chemical changes in the brain make quitting difficult. It may take months or years for the brain to return to its normal functioning, if ever.

Those is recovery may develop Post Acute Withdrawal Syndrome (PAWS). The effects

Once dependence takes hold, users may find it increasingly challenging to maintain control over their substance use.



the drug's increased strength. If first responders or doctors are unaware that the overdose is due to acetyl fentanyl, they may not administer enough Naloxone to counter the overdose.

BUT THERE IS HOPE FOR RECOVERY

Recovering from an addiction takes time and commitment. Residential, inpatient and outpatient services, and support groups are useful in providing counseling and therapy during and after withdrawal. Replacement therapy, in which one opioid is replaced with a less euphoric and longer lasting opioid, is another option.

DON'T LET IT INTO YOUR LIFE!

Your best bet is to stay away from acetyl fentanyl, heroin, and all illegal drugs. Acetyl fentanyl has already taken many lives, leaving destroyed families and friends in its wake. Using it all but guarantees addiction and overdose.

DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY ON A TEMPORARY HIGH THAT LEADS TO A LIFE OF ADDICTION AND DEATH.

few survivors

severe withdrawal

Fatal overdoses

include sensitivity to pain, apathy, extreme fatigue, and depression. If PAWS is long-lasting, the chance of using again increases.

OVERDOSE

Overdosing while using acetyl fentanyl is highly likely because of its potency. Overdose may lead to loss of consciousness. Breathing and heart rate will slow and may stop. Due to the low oxygen in the blood, skin and nails will turn blue. Seizures, muscle spasms, and vomiting may also happen.

Naloxone, a medication that helps to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses, may also help with acetyl fentanyl overdoses. However, higher doses of Naloxone must be used to account for