



WHAT IS IT?

Xylazine is an anesthetic that is used for veterinary procedures. Human trials were shut down because the drug led to respiratory depression and low blood pressure. However - known by street names like “tranq,” “Philly dope,” and “zombie drug” - xylazine is being used to bulk up illicit fentanyl. It has also been detected in mixtures containing cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and a variety of other drugs.

Tranq is used by individuals looking for a cheap and easy high or to lengthen fentanyl's euphoric effects, but the consequences of using this drug include significant harm and even death. The risks associated with this drug cannot be overstated.

WHY IT'S DANGEROUS

One of the main risks associated with tranq is the real potential for fatal overdose. The danger of combining xylazine and fentanyl lies in the fact that they both depress the respiratory system, making it difficult for the user to breathe. And because xylazine is a

sedative, not an opioid, it may not respond to standard opioid overdose reversal treatments like naloxone, often known as Narcan®. Naloxone will address the fentanyl but may not rouse a victim sedated with xylazine.

Another risk to be aware of is that xylazine causes gruesome wounds and scaly, decaying skin tissue called eschar, which can become infected and lead to amputation. Users end up with patches of oozing rotting flesh, some suffering from fleas and maggots eating their rotten skin.



Tranq also knocks out users in a blackout stupor for hours, leaving them vulnerable to rape and robbery. When users come to, the high from the fentanyl has long since faded and they immediately crave more.

Additionally, some users reported that the withdrawal symptoms from xylazine are as, or more, severe than from heroin or methadone. Withdrawal symptoms include migraines, double vision, nausea, numbness in fingers and toes, sweats, body-rattling anxiety, sharp chest pains, and seizures.

“ **The risks associated with this drug cannot be overstated.** ”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

www.nida.nih.gov/research-topics/xylazine

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

www.samhsa.gov

in the know

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XYLAZINE (TRANQ)

Addiction, Death & Decay





LEGALITY

Xylazine, or tranq, exists in a legal gray zone as it is not listed as a controlled substance for animals or humans and is not subject to strict monitoring. This means it has not been on the radar of federal law enforcement for diversion or abuse. Tranq is often produced in underground laboratories, where the quality and purity is not controlled. The illegal distribution of this drug fuels the opioid epidemic, which has already claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The emergence of xylazine across the US appears to be following the same path as heroin and fentanyl. Xylazine, or tranq, was found in more than 80% of heroin and fentanyl samples. The DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 states. This pattern indicates that the use of xylazine will likely increase and be continue to be encountered in the vast majority of the illicit fentanyl supply.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a nationwide alert about xylazine, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy has classified it as an emerging threat. However, the true prevalence of xylazine is unknown as hospitals and some state medical examiners do not routinely test for it.

ADVERSE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Xylazine works by binding to specific receptors in the brain and spinal cord. The drug is often found laced into illegal drugs leading to devastating effects. Xylazine and fentanyl, when used together, can have serious short and long-term consequences to one's physical and mental health.

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- **Decreased respiratory function, which can lead to difficulty breathing or even respiratory failure**
- **Decrease in heart rate and blood pressure, which can cause fainting or shock**
- **Unconsciousness, which can lead to coma or even death**
- **Confusion, disorientation, and hallucinations, making it difficult to make safe and rational decisions**
- **Patches of skin ulcers, abscesses and blackened scaly dead tissue**
- **Nausea, vomiting, dry mouth and seizures**
- **Addiction and dependence**
- **Risk of overdose and death**

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Liver and kidney damage
- Cognitive impairment and memory loss
- Depression and anxiety
- Serious heart problems, such as high blood pressure and heart attack
- Weakened immune system, making the user more susceptible to infections and illnesses
- Eschar, which is painful, rotting dead skin tissue resulting in amputation
- Permanent damage to the brain and other organs
- Chronic pain and other persistent health issues
- Physical and psychological dependence
- Increased risk of overdose and death



OVERDOSE

Xylazine when mixed with opioids poses a serious risk of overdose and death. Naloxone, the standard medication used to reverse opioid overdoses, is not effective in reversing the effects of xylazine. Naloxone works by reversing the effects of opioids on the brain, but xylazine works on a different part of the nervous system, meaning that naloxone has no effect. Individuals who overdose on tranq may not be able to receive life-saving treatment in a timely manner, and the consequences can be fatal.

HELP IS OUT THERE

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse or addiction, it is important to seek help immediately. There are various resources available, including counseling, detoxification, behavioral therapy, rehabilitation programs and support groups. It's crucial to take proactive steps to understand the risks of this deadly drug, and if necessary, get the help needed. By being informed and aware, individuals can make safer and healthier decisions when it comes to drug use.

A CHEAP HIGH IS JUST NOT WORTH THE RISK.

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