

XYLAZINE (TRANQ)

ADDICTION, DEATH, AND DECAY

WHAT IS TRANQ?

Xylazine, more commonly known as “tranq,” is a non-opioid sedative that is not approved for use in people. Human trials were shut down because the drug led to respiratory depression and low blood pressure. Illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl are being mixed with xylazine, either to enhance drug effects or increase street value by increasing weight.



WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Xylazine and opioids both depress the respiratory system. Combining them may result in a fatal overdose. Because xylazine is not an opioid, it may not respond to standard opioid overdose reversal treatments that address the effects of fentanyl or heroin.



BAD FOR YOUR SKIN

Injecting substances containing xylazine can cause gruesome wounds and scaly, decaying skin, which can become infected and lead to amputation. If you have wounds, see a medical professional as soon as possible.



TREATING AN OVERDOSE

Naloxone will not reverse the effects of xylazine, but because it is often used with opioids like fentanyl, naloxone should still be given. It is important to get medical treatment as quickly as possible, especially since the effects of xylazine may continue after naloxone is given.

CALL 9-1-1!!!



SYMPTOMS OF USE

Use can cause:

- Sedation
- Difficulty breathing
- Dangerously low blood pressure
- Slowed heart rate
- Wounds that can become infected
- Severe withdrawal symptoms
- Slow heart rate
- Death



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In the illicit drug supply, it can appear as a white or brown powder. Because it can be mixed into other powders or pressed into pills, it can be difficult to identify based on appearance.



BY THE NUMBERS

- One study found a nearly 7x increase over five years in the drug's involvement in overdose deaths.
- Xylazine was found in more than 80% of opioid, heroin, and fentanyl samples.
- The effects of tranq are felt very quickly and can last 8 hours or longer.