

What is Xylazine?



Xylazine is a medication that is commonly used as a sedative and analgesic in veterinary medicine. It is often used in conjunction with other medications to provide pain relief and to calm animals during certain medical procedures. However, xylazine can also be misused by humans as a recreational drug and can be dangerous or even deadly.

XYLAZINE MISUSE

The misuse of xylazine as a recreational drug can be very dangerous. Some of the risks associated with its use include respiratory depression, seizures, cardiac arrest, and even death. Xylazine can also have unpleasant side effects such as extreme sedation, confusion, and hallucinations. Lengthy blackout periods, coma, and deaths have also been reported.

Chronic xylazine use is also likely to contribute to the presence of widespread skin abscesses with possible infection.

Consider the presence of xylazine if wounds are slow to heal. It is important to clean and dress wounds according to instructions from a medical professional to avoid potential complication.

XYLAZINE OVERDOSE

Xylazine intoxication presents similarly to opioid overdose. Xylazine can enhance the effects of other depressants, such as fentanyl and heroin.

If you suspect that someone has overdosed on xylazine, it's important to seek emergency medical attention right away. The treatment for a xylazine overdose may include supportive care such as rescue breathing, fluids, and oxygen.

It is important to still administer naloxone in the case that an opioid is also present within the substances.

[Do not use substances alone. Always carry naloxone.](#)

References:

Xylazine. (2022, June 3). National Institute on Drug Abuse. <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/xylazine>

Xylazine informational flyer for people who use drugs. (2023, April 12). Carolina Digital Repository. https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/concern/scholarly_works/kp78gr054?locale=en

In case of suspected overdose:

- Call 911
- Administer naloxone (*fentanyl may have been mixed with xylazine*)
- Provide rescue breaths
- Stay with the person until help arrives



**WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF
DRUG CONTROL POLICY**
West Virginia Department of Human Services

For more information, contact odcpinfo@wv.gov.