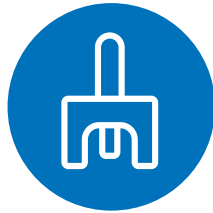


Know what's in your drugs

Xylazine or "Tranq"

Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer that is not approved for use in humans due to harmful side effects. Xylazine is being added to street drugs more often and is often found mixed with fentanyl to mimic the high of heroin. Dope with xylazine was first seen in Puerto Rico in the early 2000s but it is now being found all across the US.



When xylazine is mixed with another drug like fentanyl, heroin, or benzos, the chance of overdose increases.

If someone is overdosing, call 911, give the person naloxone, and do rescue breathing.

If the person starts breathing again but is still sedated (drowsy or sleepy), they do not need any more naloxone. Put them on their side and watch them until the paramedics arrive.



People who regularly use xylazine often have severe skin ulcers and abscesses, which can spread and worsen quickly.

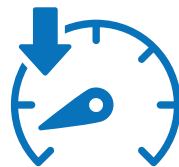
These wounds are seen regardless of how people use (smoking, snorting, injecting, etc.) and often present away from the site of injection. It is very difficult for these wounds to heal on their own so it is important to get medical attention if you have any.

What can you do if you think there is xylazine in your drugs?

Ask around and see how the drug is making other people feel before you buy or use it. Since xylazine can cause a really heavy nod, try to use somewhere where you will be safe and won't fall and hurt yourself. And, if you think there is xylazine in your drugs, let others know, including someone at your local exchange program, so folks know to be careful.



Carry naloxone (Narcan)



Start low, go slow



Tell someone you're using

Never use alone

English hotline: 877-696-1996

En español: 800-928-5330

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the signs and symptoms of a xylazine-involved overdose?

The main effect of xylazine is heavy sedation (drowsiness or sleepiness), so the person who has overdosed will likely be unresponsive. When xylazine is found in combination with fentanyl, the signs and symptoms can include blue/greyish skin, small pupils, low body temperature, dry mouth, slow heartbeat, unconsciousness, and slowed or stopped breathing

Does naloxone (Narcan) reverse xylazine-involved overdoses?

Because xylazine is usually mixed with fentanyl or other opioids, it's always safe to assume that an opioid overdose is occurring. Naloxone can reverse the opioid overdose, but will not treat the xylazine in the person's system. Give naloxone every 2-3 minutes until the person has a pulse and is breathing, however they may not fully wake up if xylazine is present. A xylazine overdose can be treated in the hospital with supportive care.

Can a person experience withdrawal from xylazine?

Yes, people who use xylazine heavily and frequently are at risk of withdrawal, but this is not well understood yet. Xylazine withdrawal is often marked by irritability, anxiety, and a feeling of unease. It may also cause a rapid heart rate and high blood pressure, although these are not always present.

Why does xylazine often get mixed with fentanyl?

Some people like it because the nod from fentanyl lasts for a very short time compared to heroin and other opioids. Xylazine is sometimes added to fentanyl to prolong the nod. The downsides include that people who use xylazine may not remember what happened during the nod and that coming down can be very uncomfortable. It can be very dangerous because people may not be aware that xylazine is in the drugs they are using.

Does xylazine cause skin ulcers or abscesses?

People who regularly use xylazine often report having severe skin ulcers and abscesses, whether they inject or not. These need special treatment, and people with these wounds should see their medical provider for help.

Is there an easy way to test for xylazine?

A company called DanceSafe has xylazine test strips that are only for sale for wholesale orders of 100 or more: dancesafe.org.

For specialty wound care:

Contact your primary care provider (PCP) for a referral. If you need a PCP, you can call Clackamas Health Centers at 503-655-8471 to establish care.

Outside In Drug Checking Program:

Mondays & Wednesdays
Noon to 4 p.m.
1219 SW Main Street, Portland
Call 503-535-3826
for more info.