

Xylazine What Is It?



Xylazine is a drug used in veterinary medicine and is not approved by the FDA for use by humans. **Naloxone WILL NOT reverse the effects of xylazine** (however, Naloxone should still be administered during a suspected overdose because of the high probability that opioids are also present). There are currently no approved antidote for xylazine overdose in humans .

Xylazine On The Rise

Xylazine has increasingly been detected in opioid samples as an **active cut in fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and a variety of other street drugs**. In the U.S., xylazine has been detected in growing numbers of overdose deaths. No strip test widely available to the public yet.



In 2022, there were 10 deaths due to xylazine mixed with fentanyl in Sacramento County.

Street Names: "Tranq" | "Tranq Dope" | "Sleep Cut"



Xylazine found in counterfeit pills



Common Side Effects

Xylazine can be swallowed, inhaled, smoked, snorted, or injected into the muscle or vein to prolong the effects of certain drugs, especially when using fentanyl.

Acute

(immediate, short-term)

- Profound sedation:
Can't move at all for hours
- Muscle/nerve damage
- Fall risk
- Low blood pressure
- Slow heart rate
- Weak or absent reflexes
- Dry mouth

Chronic

(gradual, long term)

- Severe skin wounds:
Large burn-like appearance
- Loss of fingers/toes
- Secondary bacterial infection (significantly greater for people experiencing homelessness)
- Weakness/fatigue
- Brain fog
- Feeling cold easily
- Coma
- Respiratory depression
- Death from overdose
- Blood sugar irregularities

Harm Reduction

- Watch out for your friends who are sedated and nodding (unconscious) longer than normal
- We are safer together—practice caution when using alone
- Roll body from one side to the other every hour or so
- Place padding cushion under body
- Go to the ER if you have serious skin infections

stay safe



Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse; Center for Disease Control and Prevention; National Harm Reduction Coalition; Project ECHO; 2022 DEA Joint Intelligence Report 4/13

Sacramento County System of Care for Substance Use Treatment

M-F 8am-5pm (916) 874-9754

After Hours 1-(888) 881-4881

SACRAMENTO
COUNTY