

XYLAZINE



WHAT IS XYLAZINE?

Xylazine is a drug intended for use in animals as a sedative and pain reliever. It is not safe for humans and may result in life-threatening reactions, like slowing or stopping breathing, and serious skin infections.



RISK OF OVERDOSE AND DEATH

Xylazine is showing up in the nation's street drug supply, where it is also known as “tranq” and “tranq dope”.

Xylazine may be included in illicit drugs and counterfeit pills—often without the knowledge of people who use these drugs. There is no test readily available to the public to test for xylazine in drugs (like there is for fentanyl).

Some people who use drugs might use xylazine intentionally to prolong the effects of certain drugs, especially when using fentanyl. **This increases the risk of overdose and death.** Xylazine can be swallowed, inhaled, smoked, snorted, or injected into the muscle or vein.

NALOXONE AND XYLAZINE

While xylazine is not an opioid, like fentanyl, naloxone should be administered during a suspected or known overdose because of the high likelihood that opioids, including fentanyl, are also present. The effects of xylazine alone are not reversed by naloxone, and unfortunately there is no reversal drug for it.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

Xylazine works as a sedative, causing low blood pressure, slow heart rate, reduced breathing and drowsiness. When injected, xylazine can cause particularly complex, painful, and serious skin infections like skin ulcers and abscesses. Left untreated, these injuries may eventually lead to additional complications, including amputation.

IS XYLAZINE A PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA?

Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that xylazine is prevalent in California's drug supply at this time. However, the U.S. illicit drug supply is unpredictable and experts are concerned that xylazine will eventually penetrate the California drug supply. Xylazine will likely increase the instances of fatal overdose and serious skin infections when it reaches California.

LEARN ABOUT OVERDOSE PREVENTION

CDPH works with state and local partners to address the overdose epidemic through prevention and research activities. Visit the CDPH [Overdose Prevention Initiative](#) webpage for more information, including additional information on xylazine.