

Xylazine - Know the risks!

What is Xylazine?

- It's a clear liquid, commonly known as “tranq” or “tranq dope” which is increasingly mixed with heroin, fentanyl or other illegal drug supplies.
- It is the active ingredient in veterinary tranquilizer.
- It worsens the life-threatening effects of opioids and may damage the ability of the brain to get enough oxygen.
- Responsible for, but not limited to, injection site infections and necrosis (death of soft tissue) which may result in amputations.

Symptoms of Xylazine overdose include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Excessive drowsiness, causes sedation, could lead to coma.
- Low blood pressure, reduced heart rate and palpitations.
- Rapid loss of oxygen to include lower brain oxygen levels.

What to do in the event of an overdose?

- Call 911 immediately and stay until emergency assistance arrives.
- Administer naloxone (Narcan).
- Try to keep person awake and breathing.
- Lay person on side to prevent choking.

For more information go to www.ncadd-ra.org. To schedule a presentation on Opioids, Fentanyl, Xylazine or other addiction related topics contact jfaringer@depaul.org.

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