

# FACTS

## KETAMINE

Ketamine is a white, crystalline powder or clear liquid.

### Source of the Drug:

Available by prescription only, it is commercially available as a veterinary anesthetic. It is difficult to synthesize clandestinely and is usually stolen from veterinarian offices or diverted from legitimate pharmaceutical sources in liquid form. Ketamine is currently a schedule III controlled substance in the US.

BRAND NAMES		STREET NAMES	
Ketaset	Ketanest	Special K	Jet
Ketalar	Ketanest S	K	Super acid
Ketalar SV		Super C	Green
		Cat Valium	

### Route of Administration:

Injected, snorted, orally ingested, and rectally administered. Similar to phencyclidine (PCP), ketamine can be added to tobacco or marijuana cigarettes and smoked. It can be injected, consumed in drinks, snorted, or added to joints or cigarettes. Ketamine was placed on the list of controlled substances in the US in 1999.

### Drug Class:

Dissociative anesthetic, hallucinogen, psychotomimetic.

### Medical and Recreational Uses:

Primarily used in veterinary applications as a tranquilizer. Also used as an anesthetic induction agent for diagnostic and surgical procedures in humans, prior to the administration of general anesthetics. Occasionally used as a short-acting general anesthetic for children and elderly patients. Recreationally used as a psychedelic and for its dissociative effects.

Due to the detached, dreamlike state it creates, where the user finds it difficult to move, Ketamine has been used as a "date-rape" drug.

## **Effects:**

Users have likened the physical effects of Ketamine to those of PCP, and the visual effects to LSD.

## **Psychological Effects:**

- decreased awareness of general environment
- sedation
- dream-like state
- vivid dreams
- feelings of invulnerability
- increased distractibility, disorientation
- subjects are generally uncommunicative
- intense hallucinations
- impaired thought processes
- out-of-body experiences,
- changes in perception about body, surroundings, time and sounds
- delirium and hallucinations can be experienced after awakening from anesthesia

## **Physiological Effects:**

- anesthesia,
- cataplexy
- immobility
- tachycardia
- increased blood pressure
- nystagmus - involuntary, rapid and repetitive movement of the eyes
- hyper salivation
- increased urinary output
- profound insensitivity to pain
- amnesia
- slurred speech
- lack of coordination

## **Side Effect Profile:**

High incidence of adverse effects, including

- anxiety
- chest pain
- palpitations
- agitation
- rhabdomyolysis - breakdown of muscle tissue that leads to the release of muscle fiber contents into the blood
- flashbacks
- delirium
- dystonia
- psychosis
- schizophrenic-like symptoms
- dizziness

- vomiting
- seizures
- paranoia

### **Duration of Effects:**

Onset of effects is

- within seconds if smoked
- 1-5 minutes if injected
- 5-10 minutes if snorted
- 15-20 minutes if orally administered

Effects generally last

- 30-45 minutes if injected
- 45-60 minutes if snorted
- 1-2 hours following oral ingestion

Ketamine is often re-administered due to its relatively short duration of action. Some subjects may experience dreams 24 hours later. Marked dissociative effects, schizotypal symptoms and impaired semantic memory are found in some recreational users days after drug use.

### **Tolerance, Dependence and Withdrawal Effects:**

In long-term exposure, high tolerance, drug craving, and flashbacks are described.

### **Sources:**

Adams VHA. The mechanisms of action of ketamine. *Anaesthes Reanim* 1998;23(3):60-3.

Wikipedia-Ketamine

<http://www.recoverythroughsupport.com/factsheets/dextromethorphan-ketamine-pcp.html>

<http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/prescription/abuse-of-over-the-counter-drugs.html>