

FACTS

WHAT IS FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME?

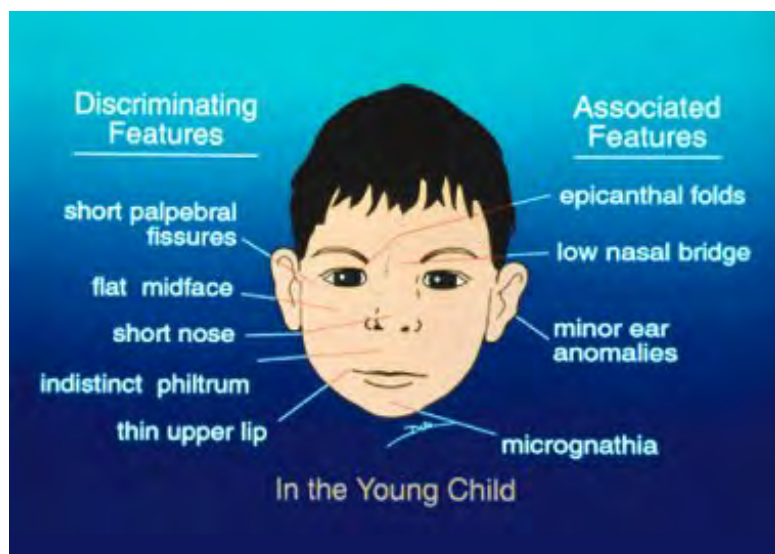
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a pattern of mental and physical defects that can develop in a fetus in association with high levels of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Alcohol crosses the placental barrier and can stunt fetal growth or weight, create distinctive facial stigmata, damage neurons and brain structures, which can result in intellectual disability and other psychological or behavioral problems, and also cause other physical damage. The main effect of FAS is permanent central nervous system damage, especially to the brain. Developing brain cells and structures can be malformed or have development interrupted by prenatal alcohol exposure; this can create an array of primary cognitive and functional disabilities. Alcohol exposure presents a risk of fetal brain damage at any point during a pregnancy, since brain development is ongoing throughout pregnancy.

When a pregnant woman drinks, the alcohol goes across the placenta to the fetus via the bloodstream. The fetus' liver isn't fully formed, so it cannot metabolize the alcohol quickly enough. At this stage, the baby has a high blood alcohol concentration. It therefore lacks oxygen and the nutrients needed for its brain and organs to grow properly. So when a mother drinks, it affects her baby's development.

Timing is another medical factor in the development of fetal alcohol syndrome. A baby's facial features are formed during weeks six to nine of pregnancy. Scientific evidence shows that mothers who drink during this three-week window are more likely to have babies with the facial deformities associated with FAS. Damage to the baby's organs through drinking is most likely to happen in the first three months.

Physical defects

Children with FAS have distinct facial features including: small and narrow eyes, a small head, a smooth area between the nose and the lips and a thin upper lip.



Physical defects may include:

- Distinctive facial features, including wide-set eyes, an exceptionally thin upper lip, a short, upturned nose, and a smooth skin surface between the nose and upper lip
- Deformities of joints, limbs and fingers
- Slow physical growth before and after birth
- Vision difficulties or hearing problems
- Small head circumference and brain size
- Heart defects and problems with kidneys and bones

Brain and central nervous system problems

Problems with the brain and central nervous system may include:

- Poor coordination or balance
- Intellectual disability, learning disorders and delayed development
- Poor memory
- Trouble with attention and with processing information
- Difficulty with reasoning and problem-solving
- Difficulty identifying consequences of choices
- Poor judgment skills
- Jitteriness or hyperactivity
- Rapidly changing moods

Social and behavioral issues

Problems in functioning, coping and interacting with others may include:

- Difficulty in school
- Trouble getting along with others
- Poor social skills
- Trouble adapting to change or switching from one task to another
- Problems with behavior and impulse control
- Poor concept of time
- Problems staying on task
- Difficulty planning or working toward a goal

Advice for mums-to-be

Drinking any kind of alcohol when you are pregnant can harm your baby, whether it is a 4-5 oz. glass of wine, a 12 oz. serving of beer or a 1½ oz. shot of distilled spirits (hard liquor) as all contain the same amount of alcohol.

The easiest way to prevent FASD is to abstain from all alcohol use during pregnancy.

If a woman never drinks alcohol during pregnancy, her baby will not have problems from prenatal alcohol exposure or FAS.

You don't have to be a heavy drinker to have a baby affected by alcohol.

If a pregnant woman drinks any alcohol, it passes directly from her bloodstream to the placenta of the growing baby.

Alcohol and Conception

If you are trying to conceive, please [stop drinking altogether](#). Ask your partner to help you by giving up drinking as well. If you are trying to conceive this is vital, as drinking impairs sperm count and heavy drinking can cause temporary impotence. Abstinence is the best policy.

Sources:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/brain/fas.html>

Google images

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ECSTASY/ XTC

What is Ecstasy?

MDMA, with street alias, Ecstasy, is a designer drug usually found at raves. MDMA is an amphetamine derivative and it is considered to be a strong stimulant. Its chemical structure is similar to two other synthetic drugs, methamphetamine and MDA.

What are the effects of Ecstasy?

MDMA stimulates the release of the serotonin from brain neurons, producing a high that lasts from several minutes to an hour. The drug's rewarding effects vary with the individual taking it, the dose and purity, and the environment in which it is taken. MDMA can produce stimulant effects such as an enhanced sense of pleasure and self-confidence and increased energy. Its psychedelic effects include feelings of peacefulness, acceptance, and empathy. Users claim they experience feelings of closeness with others and a desire to touch them.

LONG TERM EFFECTS:

With regular and frequent use, tolerance builds to the effects of the drug, while dangerous results increase with continued use. The drug effects are unpredictable among different individuals even if given the same dosage.

Users' experience:

- confusion
- depression
- sleep problems
- drug craving
- severe anxiety
- paranoia-during and sometimes weeks after use (even psychotic episodes have been reported)
- muscle tension
- involuntary teeth-clenching
- nausea
- blurred vision
- rapid eye movements
- faintness
- chills or sweating

- Increases in heart rate and blood pressure (a special risk for people with circulatory or heart disease).
- MDMA appears to cause degeneration of neurons containing the neurotransmitter dopamine; the underlying cause of the motor disturbances seen in Parkinson's disease. Symptoms of this disease begin with lack of coordination and tremors and can eventually result in a form of paralysis.
- Recent research findings also link MDMA use to long-term (possibly permanent) damage to those parts of the brain critical to thought and memory. It is thought that the drug causes long-term damage to the neurons that use the chemical, Serotonin, to communicate with other neurons.
- Also, there is evidence that people who develop a rash that looks like acne after using MDMA may be risking severe side effects, including liver damage if they continue to use the drug.

FATAL RISKS:

According to the Government and Drug Agencies, MDMA has become a nationwide problem as well as a serious health threat. It is known to be lethal.

Combining MDMA with alcohol or depressants can increase the possibility of negative effects including:

- sedation
- dehydration
- exhaustion
- overheating
- heart failure

Combining MDMA with Rohypnol can lead to:

- heart failure
- coma
- death

Even in healthy young individuals, combined use of these drugs has caused coma and death.

Source:

<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/recreational-drugs>

FACTS

WHAT IS COCAINE?

The word *cocaine* refers to the drug in a powder form or crystal form. The powder is usually mixed with substances such as corn starch, talcum powder and/or sugar or other drugs such as procaine (a local anesthetic) or amphetamines.

Extracted from coca leaves, cocaine was originally developed as a painkiller. It is most often sniffed, with the powder absorbed into the bloodstream through the nasal tissues. It can also be ingested or rubbed into the gums.

To more rapidly absorb the drug into the body, abusers inject it, but this substantially increases the risk of overdose.

A deadly white powder:

Cocaine is one of the most dangerous drugs known to man. Once a person begins taking the drug, it has proven almost impossible to become free of its grip physically and mentally. Physically it stimulates key receptors (nerve endings that sense changes in the body) within the brain that, in turn, creates a euphoria to which users quickly develop a tolerance. Only higher dosages and more frequent use can bring about the same effect.

Today, cocaine is a worldwide, multibillion-dollar enterprise. Users encompass all ages, occupations and economic levels, even schoolchildren as young as eight years old.

Cocaine use can lead to death from respiratory (breathing) failure, stroke, cerebral hemorrhage (bleeding in the brain) or heart attack. Children of cocaine-addicted mothers come into the world as addicts themselves. Many suffer birth defects and many other problems.

Despite its dangers, cocaine use continues to increase—likely because users find it so difficult to escape from the first steps taken down the long dark road that leads to addiction.

STREET NAMES

COCAINE	Blow	Dust	Paradise	Toot
Aunt Nora	C	Flake	Sneeze	White
Bernice	Charlie	Mojo	Sniff	
Binge	Coke	Nose candy	Snow	

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

Cocaine is the second most trafficked illegal drug in the world. The most recent statistics show that international seizures of cocaine have continued to increase and now total 756 metric tons, with the largest quantities of the drug intercepted in South America, followed by North America.

According to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, cocaine is also the second most commonly used illegal drug in Europe. Among young people (15 to 34 years), an estimated 7.5 million have used cocaine at least once in their life, 3.5 million in the last year and 1.5 million in the past month.

WHY IS COCAINE SO HIGHLY ADDICTIVE?

Next to methamphetamine, cocaine creates the greatest psychological dependence of any drug. It stimulates key pleasure centers within the brain and causes extremely heightened euphoria.

A tolerance to cocaine develops quickly—the addict soon fails to achieve the same high experienced earlier from the same amount of cocaine.

Deadly combination of drugs: Cocaine is sometimes taken with other drugs, including tranquilizers, amphetamines, marijuana and heroin. Such combinations greatly increase the danger of using cocaine. In addition to the likelihood of developing a two-drug habit, one can easily create a mixture of narcotics that proves fatal.

EFFECTS OF COCAINE

What are the short-term effects of cocaine?

Cocaine causes a short-lived, intense high that is immediately followed by the opposite—intense depression, edginess and a craving for more of the drug. People who use it often don't eat or sleep properly. They can experience greatly increased heart rate, muscle spasms and convulsions. The drug can make people feel paranoid, angry, hostile and anxious—even when they aren't high.

Regardless of how much of the drug is used or how frequently, cocaine increases the risk that the user will experience a heart attack, stroke, seizure or respiratory (breathing) failure, any of which can result in sudden death.

What are the long-term effects of cocaine?

The phrase "dope fiend" was originally coined many years ago to describe the negative side effects of constant cocaine use. As tolerance to the drug increases, it becomes necessary to take greater and greater quantities to get the same high. Prolonged daily use causes sleep deprivation and loss of appetite. A person can become psychotic and begin to experience hallucinations.

As cocaine interferes with the way the brain processes chemicals, one needs more and more of the drug just to feel "normal." People who become addicted to cocaine (as with most other drugs) lose interest in other areas of life.

Coming down from the drug causes depression so severe that a person will do almost anything to get the drug—even commit murder.

And if he or she can't get cocaine, the depression can get so intense it can drive the addict to suicide.

Short-term effects:

- Loss of appetite
- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature
- Contracted blood vessels
- Increased rate of breathing
- Dilated pupils
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Nausea
- Hyper-stimulation
- Bizarre, erratic, sometimes violent behavior
- Hallucinations, hyper excitability, irritability
- Tactile hallucination that creates the illusion of bugs burrowing under the skin
- Intense euphoria
- Anxiety and paranoia
- Depression
- Intense drug craving
- Panic and psychosis
- Convulsions, seizures and sudden death from high doses (even one time)

Long-term effects:

- Cocaine causes heart, kidney, brain and lung damage.
- Permanent damage to blood vessels of heart and brain
- High blood pressure, leading to heart attacks, strokes, and death
- Liver, kidney and lung damage
- Destruction of tissues in nose if sniffed
- Respiratory failure if smoked
- Infectious diseases and abscesses if injected
- Malnutrition, weight loss
- Severe tooth decay
- Auditory and tactile hallucinations
- Sexual problems, reproductive damage and infertility (for both men and women)
- Disorientation, apathy, confused exhaustion
- Irritability and mood disturbances
- Increased frequency of risky behavior
- Delirium or psychosis
- Severe depression
- Tolerance and addiction (even after just one use)

Source:

<http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/cocaine>

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>

FACTS

CRYSTAL METH

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant that can have long-lasting effects on your body. Crystal meth is methamphetamine in the form of a rock-like crystal that users heat and then smoke, although it can also be snorted or injected. Unlike most other drugs, many users report that they became addicted after trying crystal meth just once.

METH:

Beannies

Brown

Chalk

Crank

Chicken feed

Cinnamon

Crink

Crypto

Fast

Getgo

Methlies Quik

Mexican crack

Pervitin (Czech Republic)

Redneck cocaine

Speed

Tick tick

Tweak

Wash

Yaba (Southeast Asia)

CRYSTAL METH:

Batu

Blade

Cristy

Crystal

Crystal glass

Glass

Hot ice

Ice

Quartz

Yellow powder

WHAT IS METH MADE FROM?

Methamphetamine is a synthetic (man-made) chemical, unlike cocaine, for instance, which comes from a plant.

Meth is commonly manufactured in illegal, hidden laboratories, mixing various forms of amphetamine (another stimulant drug) or derivatives with other chemicals to boost its potency. Common pills for cold remedies are often used as the basis for the production of the drug. The meth “cook” extracts ingredients from those pills and to increase its strength combines the substance with chemicals such as battery acid, drain cleaner, lantern fuel and antifreeze.

These dangerous chemicals are potentially explosive and because the meth cooks are drug users themselves and disoriented, they are often severely burned and disfigured or killed when their preparations explode. Such accidents endanger others in nearby homes or buildings.

The illegal laboratories create a lot of toxic waste as well—the production of one pound of methamphetamine produces five pounds of waste. People exposed to this waste material can become poisoned and sick.

THE DEADLY EFFECTS OF METH

The short-term and long-term impact on the individual

When taken, meth and crystal meth create a false sense of well-being and energy, and so a person will tend to push his body faster and further than it is meant to go. Thus, drug users can experience a severe “crash” or physical and mental breakdown after the effects of the drugs wear off.

Because continued use of the drug decreases natural feelings of hunger, users can experience extreme weight loss. Negative effects can also include disturbed sleep patterns, hyperactivity, and nausea, delusions of power, increased aggressiveness and irritability.

Other serious effects can include insomnia, confusion, hallucinations, anxiety and paranoia. In some cases, use can cause convulsions that lead to death.

Long-range damage

In the long term, meth use can cause irreversible harm: increased heart rate and blood pressure; damaged blood vessels in the brain that can cause strokes or an irregular heartbeat that can, in turn, cause cardiovascular collapse or death; and liver, kidney and lung damage.

Users may suffer brain damage, including memory loss and an increasing inability to grasp abstract thoughts. Those who recover are usually subject to memory gaps and extreme mood swings.

METH HARM

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- Loss of appetite
- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature
- Dilation of pupils
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Nausea
- Bizarre, erratic, sometimes violent behavior
- Hallucinations, hyper excitability, irritability
- Panic and psychosis
- Convulsions, seizures and death from high doses

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Permanent damage to blood vessels of heart and brain, high blood pressure leading to heart attacks, strokes and death
- Liver, kidney and lung damage
- Destruction of tissues in nose if sniffed
- Respiratory (breathing) problems if smoked
- Infectious diseases and abscesses if injected
- Malnutrition, weight loss
- Severe tooth decay
- Disorientation, apathy, confused exhaustion
- Strong psychological dependence
- Psychosis
- Depression
- Damage to the brain similar to Alzheimer's disease, stroke and epilepsy

Severe crystal meth abuse can also cause outward signs of aging in users. The drug destroys tissues and blood vessels and hampers the body's ability to heal. Users often develop acne, and the skin takes on a dull look and loses its elasticity. The teeth begin to decay and crack, resulting in a condition known as meth mouth. The most serious long-term side effect of crystal meth, however, is death from cardiac arrest or hyperthermia.

Consistent use of crystal meth can also cause thoughts of homicide or suicide, as well as severe anxiety, paranoia and insomnia. If you recognize any of these signs and symptoms in a friend or loved one, urge them to seek help now.

Don't wait for your addiction to get to this point.

HOW METHAMPHETAMINE AFFECTS PEOPLE'S LIVES

When people take methamphetamine, it takes over their lives in varying degrees. There are three categories of abuse.

LOW-INTENSITY METH ABUSE:

Low-intensity abusers swallow or snort methamphetamine. They want the extra stimulation methamphetamine provides so they can stay awake long enough to finish a task or a job, or they want the appetite-suppressant effect to lose weight. They are one step away from becoming "binge" (meaning uncontrolled use of a substance) abusers.

BINGE METH ABUSE:

Binge abusers smoke or inject methamphetamine with a needle. This allows them to receive a more intense dose of the drug and experience a stronger "rush" that is psychologically addictive. They are on the verge of moving into high-intensity abuse.

HIGH-INTENSITY METH ABUSE:

The high-intensity abusers are the addicts, often called "speed freaks." Their whole existence focuses on preventing the crash, that painful letdown after the drug high. In order to achieve the desired "rush" from the drug, they must take more and more of it.

But as with other drugs, each successive meth high is less than the one before, urging the meth addict into a dark and deadly spiral of addiction.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The side effects of crystal meth can be swift and severe, especially for pregnant women. Crystal meth can cause a baby to be born prematurely or suffer birth defects, including cleft palate or heart abnormalities. Babies born to crystal meth users are often very small in size due to lack of nutrition and prenatal care during pregnancy. Crystal meth is also present in the breast milk of users, putting nursing babies at risk.

Some people take crystal meth specifically to experience the side effects. As it causes a decrease in appetite and an increase metabolism, some users take crystal meth as a weight-loss aid. Unfortunately, this is usually a short-term effect. After approximately six weeks of use, the body will develop a tolerance to the drug, and the weight loss may subside. As the amount of crystal meth taken is increased to compensate, addiction is often the next step. Crystal meth also tends to increase libido, leading to abuse of the drug for that purpose alone.

CRYSTAL METH WITHDRAWAL TREATMENT:

Withdrawal from crystal meth is different from most other stimulants. Physical symptoms one might expect, including severe stomach pain and vomiting, are not a part of the crystal meth detoxification process. Once users stop taking the drug, usually in a licensed detox center, the side effects stop fairly quickly. After long-term insomnia and loss of appetite, most people tend to do little more than eat and sleep the first few weeks. It can take one to two years for normal dopamine functioning to return. During that time, many people suffer from severe depression, which can lead them back to addiction. Because of the lack of physical symptoms, many rehab centers have put little emphasis on the detoxification process for crystal meth, but that is quickly changing.

Source:

<http://www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/crystalmeth.html>

FACTS

ANGEL DUST

Angel Dust is a common name for the drug phencyclidine (PCP). Other names are Embalming Fluid, and Rocket Fuel. Crystal Super Grass and Killer Joints are names that refer to PCP combined with marijuana.

DESCRIPTION:

Phencyclidine (PCP) is the best known of several related drugs including ketamine, cyclohexamine, and dizocilpine. PCP was first synthesized by a pharmaceutical company in the 1950s and sold under the brand names Sernyl and Sernylan until 1967. It was hoped that PCP could be used as a dissociative anesthetic, because it produced a catatonic state in which patients were dissociated from their environment and from pain, but not unconscious. Problems with side effects as the drug wore off, including agitated behavior and hallucinations made PCP unsuitable for medical use. Ketamine (Ketlar, Ketaject) is less potent, has fewer side effects and is approved for use as a human anesthetic.

PCP became an illicit street drug in the mid-1960s. It was most commonly found in large cities such as New York and San Francisco, and even today, most users tend to live in urban areas. Into the 1970s, PCP appeared mainly as a contaminant of other illicit drugs, especially marijuana and cocaine. This complicated diagnosis of PCP use, as many people did not know that they had ingested the drug.

A moderate amount of PCP often causes users to experience:

- feeling detached, distant, and estranged from their surroundings
- numbness of the extremities
- slurred speech
- loss of coordination may be accompanied by a sense of strength and invulnerability
- a blank stare
- rapid and involuntary eye movements
- an exaggerated gait
- auditory hallucinations
- image distortion
- severe mood disorders
- amnesia may occur

Some other effects which may be experienced are:

- acute anxiety and a feeling of impending doom

- paranoia and violent hostility
- psychoses which is indistinguishable from schizophrenia

Many believe PCP to be one of the most dangerous drugs of abuse.

COMMON FORMS OF THE WAY PCP IS USED

PCP is easy to manufacture and is inexpensively available on the street in most cities. It can be eaten, smoked, injected, snorted, and is readily soluble and will cross the skin barrier if liquid PCP is spilled on skin or clothing. The most common methods of ingestion are eating and smoking marijuana or tobacco on which liquid PCP has been sprayed. PCP is long acting. It accumulates in body fat, and flashbacks can occur as it is released from fat during exercise.

PCP binds to receptors in the brain and interferes with the chemical reactions that mediate the transmission of nerve impulses. It is deactivated slowly by the liver and excreted in urine. Although there are no controlled human studies on PCP intoxication, monkeys allowed free use of PCP will dose themselves repeatedly and maintain an almost continuous state of intoxication. They exhibit withdrawal symptoms if their supply of the drug is restricted. PCP is considered to be psychologically and possibly physically addictive in humans.

SYMPTOMS OF USE:

PCP produces both physiological and psychological symptoms. Effects of the drug are erratic and not always dose-dependent.

Physical symptoms include:

- involuntary rapid movements of the eyes vertically or horizontally
- high blood pressure
- racing heartbeat
- dizziness and shakiness
- drooling
- increased body temperature
- reduced response to pain
- slurred speech
- excessive sensitivity to sound
- lack of muscle coordination
- muscle rigidity or frozen posture
- seizures
- breakdown of muscle and excretion of muscle proteins in urine
- coma and death

Physiological effects of PCP include:

- a slight increase in breathing rate
- more pronounced rise in blood pressure and pulse rate
- shallow respiration
- flushing and profuse sweating.

At high doses of PCP, there is a drop in blood pressure, pulse rate, and respiration. This may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, flicking up and down of the

eyes, drooling, loss of balance, and dizziness. High doses of PCP can also cause seizures, coma, and death (though death more often results from accidental injury or suicide during PCP intoxication).

Psychological effects at high doses include

- illusions and hallucinations.

PCP Health Hazards

PCP is addictive and its use often leads to psychological dependence, craving, and compulsive PCP-seeking behavior.

Users of PCP report:

- Memory loss
- Difficulties with speech and learning
- Depression
- Weight loss

These symptoms can persist up to a year after cessation of PCP use. PCP has sedative effects, and interactions with other central nervous system depressants, such as alcohol and benzodiazepines, can lead to coma or accidental overdose. Use of PCP among adolescents may interfere with hormones related to normal growth and development. Many PCP users are brought to emergency rooms because of PCP's unpleasant psychological effects or because of overdoses. In a hospital or detention setting, they often become violent or suicidal, and are very dangerous to themselves and to others. They should be kept in a calm setting and should not be left alone.

Sources:

<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/recreational-drugs>

<http://www.drugfree.org/drug-guide/pcp/>