

Drug Fact Sheet

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Hydromorphone

Overview

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®) belongs to a class of drugs called opioids which includes morphine. It has an analgesic potency of two to eight times that of morphine but has shorter duration of action and greater sedative properties than that of morphine.



Street names

D, Dillies, Dust, Footballs, Juice, Smack

Looks like

Hydromorphone comes in tablets, rectal suppositories, oral solutions and injectable formulations.

Methods of abuse

Tablets may be abused by ingestion. Injectable solutions as well as tablets that have been crushed and dissolved in solution may be injected as a substitute for heroin.

Affect on mind

Similar to other opioids, hydromorphone produces feelings of euphoria, relaxation, sedation and reduced anxiety. It may also cause mental clouding, changes in mood, nervousness and restlessness. It works centrally (in the brain) to reduce pain and suppress cough. Hydromorphone use is associated with both physiological and psychological dependence.

Affect on body

Hydromorphone may cause constipation, pupillary constriction, urinary retention, nausea, vomiting and respiratory depression. In addition, it may cause dizziness, impaired coordination, loss of appetite, rash, slow or rapid heartbeat, and changes in blood pressure.

Drugs causing similar effects

Heroin, morphine, hydrocodone, fentanyl and oxycodone.

Overdose effects

Acute overdose of hydromorphone can produce severe respiratory depression, drowsiness progressing to stupor or coma, lack of skeletal muscle tone, cold and clammy skin, constricted pupils, reduction in blood pressure and heart rate. Severe overdose may result in death due to respiratory depression.

Legal status in the United States

Hydromorphone is a Schedule II drug, having an accepted medical use as a pain reliever. Hydromorphone has a high potential for abuse and use may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

Common places of origin

Hydromorphone is legally manufactured and distributed in the United States. However, abusers can obtain hydromorphone from forged prescriptions, "doctor-shopping," theft from pharmacies, and from friends and acquaintances.

This content came from a United States Government, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website, www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com.

