

Drug Fact Sheet

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Methadone

Overview

Methadone is a synthetic (man-made) narcotic.

Street names

Amidone, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Fizzies, Maria, Pastora, Salvia, Street Methadone, Wafer

Looks like

Methadone is available as a tablet, disc, oral solution, injectable liquid.



Methods of abuse

Swallowed or injected

Affect on mind

Abuse of methadone can lead to psychological dependence.

Affect on body

When an individual uses methadone, they may experience physical symptoms like sweating, itchy skin, or sleepiness. Individuals who abuse methadone risk becoming tolerant of and physically dependent on the drug. When use is stopped, individuals may experience withdrawal symptoms including anxiety, muscle tremors, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal cramps.

Drugs causing similar effects

Although chemically unlike morphine or heroin, methadone produces many of the same effects.

Overdose effects

The effects of a methadone overdose are slow and shallow breathing, blue fingernails and lips, stomach spasms, clammy skin, convulsions, weak pulse, coma, and possible death.

Legal status in the United States

It is primarily used today for the treatment of narcotic addiction and a growing number of prescriptions are being written for chronic pain management. Non-medical use of methadone, however, is illegal.

Common places of origin

German scientists synthesized methadone during World War II because of a shortage of morphine. Methadone was introduced into the United States in 1947 as an analgesic (Dolophinel).

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

