

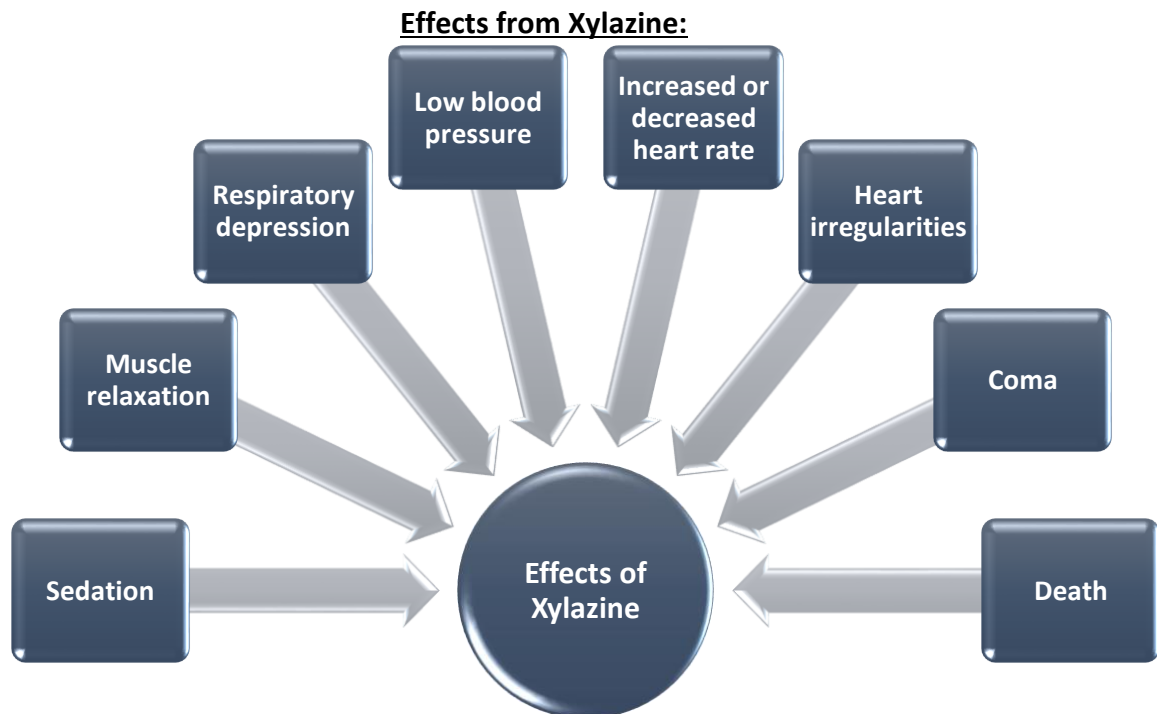


Xylazine: The Newest Threat
aka “tranq” or “tranq dope”

- ◆ Xylazine is a non-opiate sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant authorized **only** for veterinary use in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration has not approved the use of xylazine for humans nor has the drug been listed as a controlled substance under the U.S. Controlled Substance Act.
- ◆ The use of xylazine as a recreational drug has been documented in Puerto Rico since the early 2000s, where it is known as “anestesia de caballo” (horse anesthetic).

The Dangers of Xylazine?

- ◆ The National Institute on Drug Abuse noted that xylazine overdose deaths are increasing, especially in the northeastern United States.
- ◆ According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, xylazine and fentanyl mixtures have been seized in 48 of 50 states.
- ◆ Xylazine is being mixed with other illicit drugs including fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin. Combining it with other drugs increases the risk of overdose and death.
- ◆ Just three-tenths of a cc will fully sedate a person and possibly cause death. ***There is no known safe dose for xylazine for humans nor is there an antidote for xylazine overdose.***



- ◆ When xylazine is administered through intravenous injection, there is a risk for skin sores, infection, and skin necrosis (rotting skin), which can lead to amputation.
- ◆ Xylazine is also called the “zombie drug” because of its effect on skin tissue.



Reasons for Xylazine Use:

- ◆ **Low cost:** Xylazine powder can be purchased online from suppliers in China. The price is as low as \$6 per kilogram. This low price allows traffickers to make more money by reducing the amount of other drugs (i.e.: fentanyl) being used in drug mixtures.
- ◆ **Lower risk with law enforcement:** Xylazine is not a controlled substance.
- ◆ **Longer high:** Xylazine has the same effects as opioids but has a longer lasting effect than fentanyl alone.

Some individuals will intentionally seek out heroin or fentanyl mixed with xylazine because of the longer lasting high, while many other individuals are completely unaware that xylazine is mixed in with another drug.

Recommendations:

- ◆ If a person is using drugs and is unresponsive with depressed respirations or has no breathing, give naloxone. Xylazine is often mixed with opioids.
- ◆ If an opioid is involved in the overdose, it may improve breathing and possibly prevent death.
- ◆ If breathing improves, the person may remain unresponsive due to the sedative effect of xylazine.
- ◆ If there is no response from the Naloxone, it may be that the overdose is due to xylazine or a different drug.
- ◆ Always call 911 for a suspected overdose and initiate CPR if indicated.



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