

Xylazine

Also called “tranq” or “tranq dope” xylazine is a non-opioid animal sedative not approved for human use. Xylazine is more frequently showing up in the drug supply and has made the overdose crisis more severe. Xylazine may complicate overdose response because there is no drug to reverse its effects and it is undetectable without drug testing equipment.

What are side effects and health risks of xylazine?

When used in people, xylazine can cause:

- death
- sedation
- difficulty breathing
- dangerously low blood pressure
- slowed heart rate
- severe withdrawal symptoms
- skin wounds which may worsen quickly

Please seek **immediate** medical attention.



What should be done for someone with signs and symptoms of a possible opioid overdose or an overdose involving opioids and xylazine?



Call 911 – Stay with the person until first responders arrive. Overdose is a medical emergency.



Give naloxone – Naloxone can reverse the effect of any opioids and will not cause harm if opioids are not involved in an overdose.



Give rescue breaths – First responders have reported that rescue breaths are especially helpful for people who have used xylazine because it causes breathing to slow down.

Note: Good Samaritan laws are in place in most states to protect those who are overdosing and anyone assisting them in an emergency from arrest, charges, or a combination of these.



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