

What Is Xylazine?

Xylazine, commonly known as “tranq,” is a drug used by veterinarians to relax or sedate animals. It is not an opioid. Xylazine has been found in the New York City (NYC) drug supply, almost always together with fentanyl (a powerful synthetic opioid).



What are the side effects of xylazine?

Xylazine can cause drowsiness, unresponsiveness, low blood pressure, slowed heart rate and decreased breathing.



Is xylazine approved for use in humans?

No. Xylazine has only been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in animals.



Where else has xylazine been found?

Xylazine has been found in the drug supply in several U.S. states and Puerto Rico.



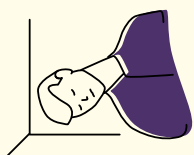
Is xylazine usually found by itself or with other drugs?

In NYC, xylazine has only been found in drugs that also contain fentanyl.



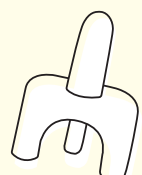
Why is xylazine commonly found with fentanyl?

The effects of fentanyl do not last as long as those from other opioids (such as heroin). Xylazine may be added to fentanyl to increase how long the effects last. Most people do not know xylazine is in their drugs.



Can you overdose on xylazine?

Yes. Very high doses of xylazine can cause extreme sedation, slowed heart rate, or slowed or stopped breathing.



Does naloxone work on xylazine?

Xylazine is not an opioid, so naloxone does not reverse its effects. However, xylazine is almost always found with opioids — if you think someone is experiencing an overdose, give them naloxone and call **911**. Naloxone will reverse the effects of the opioids, even if the person stays sedated due to the xylazine.



What happens if someone has used xylazine and received naloxone for an opioid overdose?

The person may start breathing again but still be sedated from the xylazine. If the person is breathing, put them in the rescue position (lying on their side) and wait for help to arrive. If you have a pulse oximeter, use it to monitor the person's oxygen levels.



What are some other effects of xylazine?

People who regularly use xylazine may develop severe skin ulcers and abscesses, even if xylazine is not injected (for example, if it is smoked or snorted). Skin wounds caused by xylazine use may worsen faster and take longer to heal than other skin wounds.



Can people experience xylazine withdrawal?

Yes. People who regularly use xylazine are at risk of withdrawal. Symptoms include irritability, anxiety, feeling uneasy, rapid heart rate and high blood pressure.



Is there a way to test drugs for xylazine?

People can contact and visit the following syringe service programs to have their drugs tested for xylazine and get harm reduction services:

- **OnPoint NYC:** Visit onpointnyc.org or call 212-828-8464.
- **St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction:** Visit sachr.org or call 718-585-5544.
- **Housing Works:** Visit housingworks.org or call 347-473-7400.
- **VOCAL-NY:** Visit vocal-ny.org or call 718-802-9540.

People can also order xylazine test strips online from manufacturers for personal use.



How can people reduce their risk of harm from xylazine?

If you know or think your drugs contain xylazine:

- Avoid using them, especially alone or in a place where it might be dangerous to be unconscious for a long time.
- Bring them to an overdose prevention center to use under supervision.

If you have skin wounds, stopping xylazine use can help them heal. If you have skin wounds that do not improve or go away, talk to your health care provider.

For help finding a provider, call **311** or 844-692-4692.