



Xylazine

aka Tranq



Background

- Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer not approved for human use.
- Street drug supplies in the U.S., especially those being sold as fentanyl and/or 'dope,' are increasingly cut with xylazine.
- Xylazine is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant – a downer – but not an opioid.

Overdose



The only way to know if your drug supply has xylazine in it is to test it. If your drugs are cut with xylazine, you are at a higher risk of overdosing. Have naloxone (Narcan) available! Narcan works against the opioids (such as fentanyl) that might be causing the overdose, even though it doesn't work on xylazine.

Wounds

For reasons that aren't yet fully understood, people using xylazine are at higher risk of developing wounds, regardless of the route of drug use (snorting, injecting, boofing, smoking). Wounds also might appear at sites other than where drugs are injected. Seek treatment for wounds – the earlier the better - because wound care can help them heal.

Strategies

- If you use drugs, use a small amount of your supply before taking a full dose
- Have Narcan available
- Keep your phone charged
- Avoid using alone
(Never Use Alone Hotline: 800-484-3731)
- Talk to people you know about what they're seeing in their supply

If you have concerns about what's in your drugs, you can get up-to-date information about the drug supply and ways to reduce harm from Public Health's syringe service programs ([King County Needle Exchange - King County](#)).

Drug Trends

Xylazine is in many of the drug supplies on the East Coast. As of June 2023, Washington State has seen sporadic cases of xylazine in street drug supplies. For updates on drug trends, [sign up for text/email alerts](#) or scan the QR code.

