

Xylazine

A Dangerous New Addition to the Opioid Crisis

What is it?

Xylazine is a drug used in veterinary medicine as a sedative and tranquilizer for many large animals, including horses and cows. First created in 1962, xylazine has no FDA-approved use in humans. Known by the street name "Tranq," it is often mixed with supplies of street drugs such as heroin and illicit fentanyl.¹



Tranq Dope

When xylazine is added to fentanyl or heroin, it creates a mixture known as "Tranq Dope." People who regularly use xylazine often develop severe skin ulcers and abscesses. These wounds can occur all over the body (away from the injection site) and appear to worsen quicker than other skin infections.¹ If you notice any wounds appear on a person who may be using xylazine, encourage them to seek care immediately.

It's resistant to Naloxone/Narcan

Xylazine is not an opioid, so naloxone (Narcan) will not reverse a xylazine overdose. Because xylazine is often combined with opioids, including fentanyl, naloxone should still be administered whenever you suspect an opioid-involved overdose. If the person begins breathing again but remains sedated, do not administer more naloxone. Instead, make sure someone has called 911 and monitor them until emergency services arrive.¹



Source:

¹. <https://www.substanceusephilly.com/tranq>