



SYNTHETIC STIMULANTS

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In this lesson, we will discuss what synthetic stimulants are, their forms, how they are consumed, and their potential effects. We'll finish up with assessment and management of the situation.

Good Studying.

What Are Synthetic Stimulants?

- Produced in laboratory
- Mimic the effects of natural drugs
- Addictive and harmful to health
- Two types
  - ✓ Cannabinoids - THC
  - ✓ Stimulants – Cocaine, LSD and methamphetamine



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According to the Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America, or C A D C A in short, synthetic stimulants are those produced in the laboratory for both valid medical uses and to divert it through illegal channels as stimulants, to mimic the effects of natural illicit drugs like marijuana.

These drugs are addictive and can be harmful for the everyday health of individuals who consume them.

Broadly speaking, there are two types of synthetic drugs, and they are cannabinoids and stimulants.

Cannabinoids are chemicals that mimic the effect of THC, the main psychoactive component of marijuana. Stimulants, on the other hand, are those that mimic the effects of drugs such as cocaine, LSD, methamphetamine.

These stimulants have many street names such as Bliss, Blue Silk, Ivory Wave, White Dove, White Knight, White Lightning, and more.

Forms Of Synthetic Stimulants?

- Three forms – powder, crystals, and capsules
- Powder form
  - ✓ White or off-white
  - ✓ Smoking, snorting, or injection
- Crystals
  - ✓ White, off-white, red and yellow crystals
- Tablets
  - ✓ Sold as liquid drops
  - ✓ Injected as IV



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Synthetic stimulants come in three different forms, and based on their form, these drugs have different street names.

First off, Bliss, Blue Silk, Ivory Wave, White Dove, White Knight, and White Lightning are some of the street names for synthetic stimulants that are sold as a white powder.

This powder tends to in a white to off-white color, and may sometimes even be sold by stuffing this powder inside capsules. Most times, these powders are inhaled nasally by snigging or snorting. They can also be taken orally or smoked directly. Some people

prefer to mix it into liquids and inject it to their veins through a syringe.
The second form is the crystals, and these are known as Crank, Crystal Meth, Glass, Ice, Tweak, Yaba, etc. These crystals also tend to white or off-white in color. Sometimes, these can be of a yellow or red crystalline powder.

Like its powdered counterpart, these crystal substances are also smoked or snorted. Sometimes, they are crushed with liquid and injected as IV.

The last synthetic stimulant we will talk about is methylenedioxymethamphetamine. This has many street names such as Ecstasy, E, X, X T C, Smarties, Scooby-Snacks, Skittles. These drugs are mostly sold in the form of tablets or capsules, and can be of any color.

Sometimes, this is sold as liquid drops as well. In this form, it is smoked or snorted.

Effects Of Synthetic Stimulants

- Psychological and somatic effects
- Psychological – Insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, delusions, panic attacks and suicidal thoughts
- Hyperthermia due to MDMA consumption
- Somatic - Rapid heart rate, chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea and vomiting



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The effect of these synthetic stimulants falls into two categories. They are psychological and somatic.

The psychological effects include Agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, paranoia, delusions, suicidal thoughts, seizures, and panic attacks. On the other hand, the somatic effects include Hyperthermia, that tends to be significant with MDMA. Also, a rapid heart rate is an indicator of the consumption of synthetic stimulants. This is a potentially dangerous condition that can lead to heart attacks and strokes Chest pains,

nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, and vomiting are some of the other symptoms to watch out for.

Assessment And Management

- Analyze the symptoms to understand the kind of drug
- Check for vital signs
- Look for a death rattle sound
- Perform resuscitation if needed
- Provide oxygen to stabilize the patient
- Decide on emergency transportation
- Watch out for aggressive behavior



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As a first step, analyze the symptoms of the patient to determine if the problem is an opioid overdose. The next step is to understand the kind of drug that was consumed.

Since drug overdose are a respiratory depressant, it can impede the patient from breathing. So, check for the vital signs, and in particular, watch out for a death rattle sound. This is the sound of exhalation that mostly comes from the throat, and has a distinct and labored sound. In fact, this sign indicates that the person is nearing death,

so be ready to perform resuscitation.

Even if the patient’s condition is not so serious, still providing oxygen is something to consider. .

After stabilizing the patient, administer naloxone intravenously to quickly reverse the effects of the opioid overdose. Remember, the effect of a dose lasts from 20 to 90 minutes, so you will get some time for emergency transportation or to determine the next course of action.

Finally, be ready for aggressive behavior as Naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms that in turn, can incite anger and aggression.

With this, we come to the end of this lesson. In the next, Justin will talk about T H C.