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Επιστρέψτε στην - AGWS, 7 Union Street, Brunswick Victoria

In case of emergency

If someone is intoxicated or they seem to be seriously ill - dial 000 and ask for ambulance assistance.

Bibliography:

- * "This book: the Truth About drugs", Michael Rock
- ** "Better Life", Konstantine Petsinis
- *** "You can free Yourself from Alcohol & Drugs, Doug Althausen
- **** "When I say No, I feel Guilty, Dr. Manuel J. Smith
- ***** "When Good things become Addictions, Dr. Grant Martin
- ***** "How to behave so your children will, too, Dr. Sal Severe
- ***** "Become the Person you dream of Being, Wes Beavis

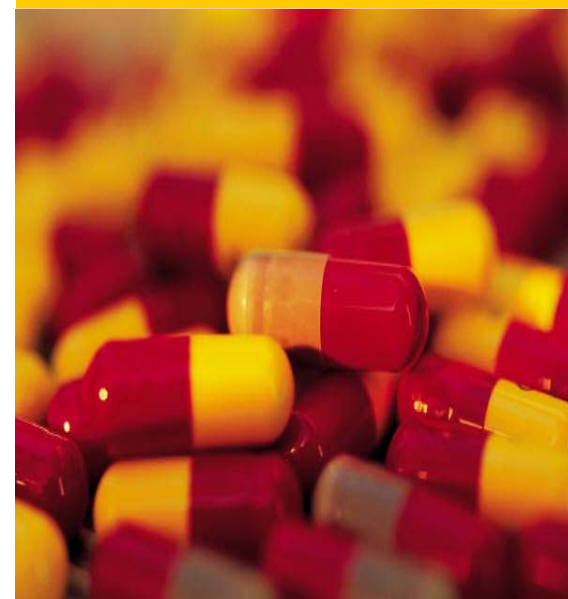
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Amphetamines (Speed)



What are Amphetamines (Speed)?

Amphetamines are commonly known as Speed. They are powerful, illicit, stimulant drugs. Their chemical structure is similar to the natural stimulants produced in the brain, namely Adrenaline and Nor Adrenaline. They are sold in powder, capsule and crystal form. They can be inhaled into the nostril and absorbed into the bloodstream across the nasal mucosa. It is also possible to inject them intravenously. However, most users take them in capsule form.

Effects of Amphetamines (Speed).

Amphetamines stimulate the nervous system. They impart activity and increase the speed of speech quite dramatically, that is why they are called "Speed". The day after the user may feel crushed. Users who take amphetamines on a regular basis can develop dependency. Those using amphetamines on a long term basis become excessively sensitive and laugh or cry easily. These drugs are legal only if prescribed by doctors. Some weight loss medications have speed in them. Some users claim that amphetamines help them to be open minded and to think and reflect clearly.

Associated dangers.

Users who take amphetamines on a long term basis become very paranoid. They can pay great attention to trivial things and create misunderstandings within themselves and with others. Circumstantial use of amphetamines may lead to a psychological high but daily use can be utterly exhausting. Speeding up the rhythms of the body may seem an interesting experience for a while, but it can have a devastating effect on the user's health as the cells are damaged irreparably and the system slows down, deteriorates and suffers. Systematic use of amphetamines leads to gradual but sure decline of the system which can collapse leading to kidney, liver and heart failure and even death.

Users lose their appetite and this can result in malnutrition and starvation.

Precautions.

Because Amphetamines are sold in a powder form, users do not know their purity levels as it can be mixed with many other poisons. The biggest quantity found on the streets has only a 5% to 10% of pure amphetamines in it. If the user is pregnant, amphetamines can harm the embryo. If they are used intravenously, and users share needles the transmission of deadly viruses like HIV (AIDS) and Hepatitis B and C is a real possibility.

Substances that are found in powder form are easily mixed with other things. Dealers usually mix them in order to increase the quantity as these drugs are sold by the weight. This is called "cutting". Some of these cuttings are harmless, like lactose (the sugar that is found in the milk), starch, and various amino acids. Other cuttings may be some less safe substances, like rat poison, batteries, talcum powder, washing powder etc. These substances can be very dangerous, especially if users inject them.

The reality is that with drugs like amphetamines it is indeed very hard for the users to know what they are really using. Being a stimulant, amphetamines can be very dangerous for people with heart problems and high blood pressure. In high doses or if taken in combination with other drugs or alcohol it can be lethal. ****

Stimulants include legal drugs like nicotine (cigarettes), caffeine (coffee, cola drinks, chocolate, cocoa, weight loss pills) and ephedrine (which can be found in some medications like cough syrups) and illegal drugs such as cocaine, amphetamines (speed), LSD and ecstasy. Users may develop chronic fatigue due to the lack of sleep and food while under the influence of amphetamines.