



Heroin

Street Name: Dope, "D," Smack

Chemical Name: diamorphine, acetomorphine

Routes Of Administration: Snorting, smoking, subcutaneous, and intravenous.

Effects: Euphoria, drowsiness, constricted pupils, nausea. In people already addicted to it, it causes increased energy.

Risks: Because heroin abusers do not know the actual strength of the drug or its true contents, they are at risk of overdose or death.

It is often innocently tried by a curious person only to find that before they are aware of it, they go through severe withdrawal on stopping this drug. By the time the patient seeks medical help, either it is for a medical problem (abscess, endocarditis, overdose) or due to psychological problems associated with use (depression).

Heroin interferes with the brain's ability to feel pain, and is depressing the central nervous system. Rising purity along with inexpensive and plentiful supplies of heroin have made this drug attractive to a new group of users. Shallow respiration, cold and clammy skin, weak and rapid pulse, coma and possible death.

Death is particularly common in the new user. Intravenous use also poses special problems because of the transmission of HIV and other diseases that can occur from sharing needles or other injection equipment.

Heroin detoxification does not have to be scary under the care of Joel A. Nathan, MD, a certified addiction medicine physician with over 15 years of experience treating codeine addiction.

Our center adheres to high standards of safety for heroin detoxification procedures. Our treatments avoid much of the discomfort associated with withdrawal, by using advanced medical procedures and FDA-approved medications such as suboxone which is sublingual buprenorphine.

Patients appreciate the personal attention we give. Our confidentiality and discreet New York City office locations put our patients at ease.

Due to pharmaceutical advances such as suboxone (buprenorphine), our treatment programs help prepare our patients for a life free of heroin abuse.