

## Methadone

**Street Name:** Meth (in New York), Dolophine

**Chemical Name:** Methadone

**Routes Of Administration:** Oral

**Effects:** Euphoria, drowsiness, constricted pupils, nausea.

**Risks:** The risk of taking methadone is that when you want to come off this drug, you will find it very difficult to do so.

Methadone is a synthetic opiate. It is not picked up as an opiate on the usual urine tests. Therefore, it is tested for separately. If someone is taking methadone but is not taking other opiates including heroin, their drug screen would be positive for methadone and negative for opiates.

Since the 1960s it has been used to treat opiate addicts as a substitute for heroin. It is also used to treat chronic pain.

This drug leads to tissue dependency in the methadone user; however, it cuts down on needle use, criminality and gives a structure to those people on it where they would have no structure at all.

There are pros and cons to the treatment of opiate dependency with Methadone. People need to be well informed about this drug before starting it. They need to know that although one can be detoxified from it, many stay on it for life. Shortly after beginning methadone maintenance, the drug ceases to cause euphoria. It simply stops the patient from going into withdrawal. It also blocks, at least partially, the effect of heroin or other less potent opiates.

Possible effects of overdose: Shallow respiration, cold and clammy skin, weak and rapid pulse, coma and possible death. Death is particularly common among people who get methadone on the street and are not used to taking opiates.

Risks: Although the benefits of methadone may out way the risks, please take into consideration the following information. The risk of taking methadone is that when you want to come off this drug, you will find it very difficult to do so. In addition, many methadone programs will discourage you from stopping methadone. Methadone does have its place in effective substance abuse treatment; however, patients need to know what their options are with respect to whether to be on methadone or focusing on a drug free approach.

Getting off methadone 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 methadone 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 methadone abuse.