

Barbiturates



Contact Us

Please contact us for further information.

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What are Barbiturates?

Barbiturates are a class of drugs prescribed for their sedative attributes. They are commonly used for anxiety, migraines, and insomnia.

Barbiturates commonly come in the form of pills, tablets, and capsules.

Barbiturates are often misused because they tend to produce feelings of relaxed contentment, sense of well-being, drowsiness, and euphoria. Barbiturate misuse often leads to drug abuse and drug dependence.

Who uses them?

- According to the Ontario Student Drug Use Survey (OSDUS), barbiturate use has significantly declined between years 1999 to 2003 from 4.4% to 2.5% among students.
- 1.5% reported using them for non-medical purposes in the past 12 months.

What are the consequences?

The short term effects of barbiturates are similar to those of alcohol; individuals often feel relaxed, drowsy and have a sense of well-being.

Tolerance to barbiturates develops very quickly, usually within 2 weeks.

Acute or chronic intoxication with barbiturates leads to mood alterations, drowsiness, paradoxical excitement, confusion, slurred speech, disorientation, pupil constriction and dilation, involuntary rapid eye movement, defective judgment, and loss of emotional control.

Overdose results in respiratory depression, leading a person to stop breathing. An overdose also leads to central nervous system depression, which can result in anything from a deep sleep to coma.

When an individual stops taking barbiturates withdrawal symptoms may include: physical weakness, dizziness, anxiety, tremors, sleeplessness, nausea, abdominal cramps, vomiting, delirium, delusions, and hallucinations.

Treatment

- Seek medical help if having difficulties breathing
- Individuals may be placed in a detoxification program
- Other therapies include: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), 12 step programs, Motivational Enhancement Therapy