

# EMERGING THREAT: XYLAZINE

## OVERVIEW

Xylazine, a clonidine analog, is a nonopioid veterinary tranquilizer not intended for human consumption. The FDA has only approved xylazine for use in animals. When ingested, xylazine affects an individual's central nervous system. Xylazine is a depressant that may cause drowsiness, amnesia, slow breathing, heart rate and dangerously low blood pressure. A reported adulterant to many illicit substances, it is commonly combined with illicitly manufactured fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin. Currently, xylazine is detected in a growing number of drug overdose deaths.

In the early 2000's, xylazine was reportedly found and appeared in Puerto Rico among people who use drugs. In 2021, CDC reported a detection of xylazine and its involvement in drug overdose deaths. In March 2023, DEA issued a public safety alert to the American public of 'sharp increase' in the trafficking mixed with xylazine.

Tablets  
and  
Capsules



Powder



## WOUNDS AND TREATMENT

If you suspect a xylazine wound is present, **do**:

- ✓ Clean area with soap and bottled/tap water or saline.
- ✓ Keep wounds covered with clean bandage.
- ✓ Change bandages daily, if possible.
- ✓ Avoid injecting into or around wound site.
- ✓ Keep skin moisturized with ointment, e.g., petroleum jelly.
- ✓ Use new supplies every time & avoid sharing supplies.

If you suspect a xylazine wound is present, **do not**:

- ✗ Use hand sanitizer, bleach or alcohol wipes.
- ✗ Scratch or pick at wound site.
- ✗ Share supplies.
- ✗ Leave uncovered for any period of time.



## PHYSICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE TO XYLAZINE



**Dangerously  
Low Blood  
Pressure**



**Difficult, Slow  
or Shallow  
Breathing**



**Sleepiness,  
Drowsiness,  
Unresponsive  
or Loss of  
Consciousness**



**Amnesia**



**Abnormally  
Slow Heart  
Rate**

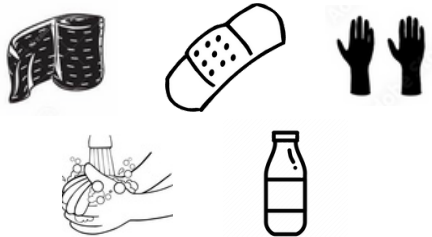
### WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE

- ✓ A wound that does not heal.
- ✓ Fever and/or chills.
- ✓ Skin turns dark or black.
- ✓ Skin is red, hard or hot to touch.
- ✓ Thick, smelly, yellow or green discharge.
- ✓ Fever or worsening pain at the wound site.
- ✓ Pain and decreased ability to move joint.
- ✓ Pieces of tissue falling off.
- ✓ Exposed bone or tendon.
- ✓ Numbness.

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## RECOMMENDED WOUND CARE ITEMS

- ✓ Gauze (2X2, 4X4 or rolls)
- ✓ Bandages (assorted sizes)
- ✓ Hand Soap
- ✓ Wipes



- ✓ Tape for Gauze
- ✓ Petroleum Jelly
- ✓ Sterile or Bottled Water
- ✓ Non-latex Gloves

## XYLAZINE RISK REDUCTION

### IMPORTANCE OF RESPONSE

- ✓ Increases the chance of surviving an overdose.
- ✓ Decreases the chance of brain injury due to low blood oxygen.
- ✓ Follow agency protocols with scope of practice.

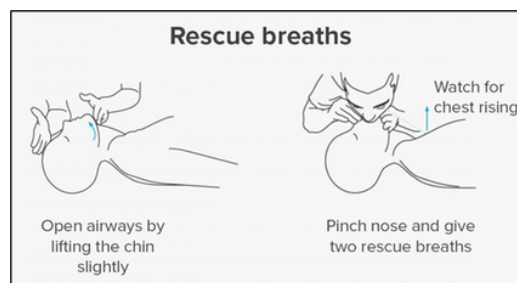
### STRATEGIES

- ✓ Create a safety plan.
- ✓ Do not use alone.
- ✓ Do not operate a motor vehicle.
- ✓ Do not mix substances.
- ✓ If using unregulated substances, best practice is to have naloxone on hand and know how to use it.

## OVERDOSE RESPONSE

### NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ Administer naloxone when opioid overdose is suspected.
- ✓ Xylazine is increasingly combined with **opioids** and may prolong sedation even after naloxone administration.
- ✓ Place in recovery position.
- ✓ Call 911.
- ✓ Give **rescue breaths**.



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### RESCUE BREATHS

- ✓ Lift their chin and tilt their head back to open the airway.
- ✓ Pinch their nose closed.
- ✓ Give 1 breath slowly, watching to see IF chest rises.
- ✓ Continue giving 1 breath every 5 seconds.