

Psychoactive Drugs

CHAPTER 24 LESSON 2

Types of Psychoactive Drugs

- ▶ 4 main groups of psychoactive drugs:
 - ▶ Stimulants
 - ▶ Depressants
 - ▶ Narcotics
 - ▶ Hallucinogens
- ▶ First 3 groups have medicinal value when properly used.

Stimulants

- ▶ Stimulants are drugs that speed up the central nervous system.
- ▶ Amphetamines, methamphetamines, and cocaine are commonly abused stimulants.
- ▶ Stimulants cause
 - ▶ increased heart rate
 - ▶ Increased respiratory rates
 - ▶ high blood pressure
 - ▶ dilated pupils
 - ▶ decreased appetite

Stimulants Cont'd

- ▶ Extremely high doses can cause
 - ▶ Irregular heart beat
 - ▶ Shaking or trembling
 - ▶ Loss of coordination
 - ▶ Physical collapse
- ▶ Psychological Effects
 - ▶ Moodiness
 - ▶ Restlessness
 - ▶ Paranoia- irrational suspiciousness of distrust of others.

Stimulants- Amphetamines

- ▶ Stimulants
- ▶ Some people use amphetamines illegally to stay awake and alert, improve athletic performance, to lose weight, or to offset the effects of depressant drugs.
- ▶ Temporary high
- ▶ Euphoria- a feeling of intense well-being or elation that may be followed by a complete “crash” or letdown.

Stimulants- Methamphetamines

- ▶ Stimulant used medically to treat certain diseases (Parkinson's disease and obesity)
- ▶ Also called crank, speed and ice
- ▶ Users can turn paranoid or violent
- ▶ Long lasting effects

Stimulants- Cocaine

- ▶ Rapidly acting, powerful stimulant
- ▶ First you feel confident followed by a period of letdown
- ▶ Regular use can cause depression, edginess, weight loss, physiological dependence, tissue damage in the nose and holes in the nasal septum, malnutrition, cardiac problems (increase chance of heart attack)
- ▶ Possibility of being infected with HIV
- ▶ CRANK
 - ▶ Form of cocaine that is smoked
 - ▶ Addictive
 - ▶ Users develop sore throat, hoarseness, lung damage, cardiac and respiratory failure

Depressants

- ▶ Or sedatives are drugs that tend to slow down the central nervous system
- ▶ Commonly used depressants
 - ▶ Barbiturates
 - ▶ Tranquilizers
 - ▶ Methaqualone
- ▶ Relax the muscles, relieve feelings of tension and worry and bring on sleep. Slows down the heart rate and breathing rate and reduces blood pressure.

Depressants- Barbiturates

- ▶ Belong to a family of sedative-hypnotic drugs
 - ▶ Induce sleepiness
- ▶ Barbiturate can result in mood changes, more sleep than normal, or coma

Depressants- Tranquilizers

- ▶ Reduce muscle activity, coordination, and attention span

Depressants- Methaqualone

- ▶ Originally used to reduce anxiety and to help with insomnia
- ▶ Effects of using methaqualone include rapid dependence, headaches, diarrhea, dizziness, convulsions, and coma.

Narcotics

- ▶ Narcotics are drugs derived from the opium plant that have a sedative effect.
- ▶ Most commonly abused narcotics are morphine, heroin, opium itself, and codeine
- ▶ Medically used to relieve pain
- ▶ Causes drowsiness and physiological dependence

Narcotics- Morphine

- ▶ Natural narcotic that contains opium
- ▶ Used to reduce severe pain, ex. terminal cancer patients
- ▶ Appetite suppressant, severe constipation, addictive

Narcotics- Codeine

- ▶ Weaker cousin of morphine
- ▶ Used in cough medicine to stop coughing
- ▶ Can lead to dependence and abuse

Narcotics- Heroin

- ▶ Made from morphine, no medical use
- ▶ Depresses the central nervous system and slows breathing and pulse rate, coma or death can occur with large doses
- ▶ Pregnant women risk the baby being addicted if used while pregnant
- ▶ Risk of HIV

Hallucinogens

- ▶ Drugs that alter moods, thoughts, and sense perceptions, including vision, hearing, smell, and touch
- ▶ Commonly abused narcotics are PCP, LSD, and mescaline

Hallucinogens- PCP

- ▶ Phencyclidine- (PCP, angel dust) is a powerful and dangerous hallucinogens
- ▶ PCP is one of the most dangerous of all drugs
- ▶ Feeling distant or detached from their surroundings, time passes slowly, muscle coordination impaired and sensations of touch and pain are dulled
- ▶ Make users feel strong and powerful
- ▶ Deaths come from strange, destructive behaviors that the drug produces in the user.

Hallucinogens- LSD

- ▶ Lysergic acid diethylamide (Acid)
- ▶ One of the most potent of all mood-altering chemicals
- ▶ False sense of security and power that leads to death of users
 - ▶ Believe they can fly or stop a train by standing on the train tracks
- ▶ Hallucinations may lead to panic, anxiety, or accidental suicide

Hallucinogens- Mescaline

- ▶ Comes from peyote cactus
- ▶ Lead to “bad trips,” frightening imagined phenomena and may lead to vicious stomach cramps and vomiting.