



TRANQ DOPE:

Xylazine in the Drug Supply



“TRANQ” is the slang term for opioids laced with xylazine

Xylazine is an animal sedative not approved for use in humans.

- Xylazine is **NOT** an opioid so it does not respond to naloxone (Narcan)
- You should still give naloxone if someone is overdosing as it will reverse the effects of any opioid overdose

HOW DOES XYLAZINE FEEL?

You may be able to feel the effects of xylazine 1-2 minutes after consuming. Effects can last 4+ hours.

- Heavy sedation/heavy nod especially in first 20-30 mins after use
- Lowered heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate
- Dry mouth
- **Skin ulcers** — large, severe, poor healing wounds, skin may be blackened and dead
- Feelings of dizziness, tiredness, weakness, or confusion caused by rapid drop in blood sugar and possible anemia

CHICAGO OVERDOSE DEATHS DUE TO XYLAZINE

2019	21
2020	23
2021	89
2022	112

SOURCE: Provisional data of fatalities in Chicago with xylazine as the primary cause from Cook County Medical Examiner Open Data Portal. Data as of 3/15/2023 and is subject to change.

Xylazine use can cause severe **skin wounds** that can require complicated wound care:

- May become large and have dead skin and tissue
- Can be at sites associated with injection, at sites not associated with injection, and in people who don't inject at all (often found on legs, forearms)
- Are not infectious, but can become infected
- Do not heal well or quickly

How to manage wounds associated with xylazine use:

- If possible, cut back or stop using xylazine
- Do not pick at skin
- Keep wound as clean as possible with soap and water
- See a doctor immediately



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WHERE IS XYLAZINE FOUND?

Most xylazine is being found in dope and/or the opioid supply overall, but there are reports of fatal overdoses involving xylazine and cocaine, methamphetamine, and benzodiazepines

What to do in case of a xylazine-involved overdose?

- Give naloxone. NOTE: xylazine does NOT respond to naloxone (Narcan) but it is important to give naloxone to reverse the effects of the opioids involved in the overdose
- Call 911
- Put someone in recovery position, try to clear airway
- If comfortable, attempt rescue breathing

There is no antidote for xylazine overdose that is approved for use in humans.

Resources

- For free naloxone (Narcan), visit any Chicago Public Library location bit.ly/FindNarcan
- For free safer use supplies including syringes, snorting kits, smoking kits, fentanyl testing kits, HIV & Hep-C testing, and nasal/IM naloxone (Narcan), contact Chicago Recovery Alliance : **(773) 367-3771**
- For immediate opioid use disorder treatment available to everyone (no insurance, ID, or documentation required) **CALL 833-234-6343** and ask for **MAR NOW**. This service is available 24/7 and transportation is provided.
- Email osu.cdph@cityofchicago.org to get fentanyl test kits and Narcan.

NOTE: xylazine withdrawal can last several days to weeks, and the primary symptom is severe anxiety