

What is xylazine and how can you help?

Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer used by veterinarians that is sometimes added to recreational drugs to prolong the drug's effects. Xylazine is most often added to opioids, such as fentanyl, but can also be in other drugs such as cocaine or meth. It can appear as a powder, mixed into pills, or in other forms and can be hard to identify by appearance. A person who has taken a drug with xylazine may not be aware that the drug has xylazine mixed with it. Other names for xylazine include "tranq" and "tranq dope."

Xylazine has been found in drugs in Portland and the Pacific Northwest; however, it is not widespread.

If someone is experiencing an overdose, give naloxone, whether you know what they have taken or not.

Naloxone (also known as Narcan) does not work on xylazine because it is not an opioid. If you think someone is experiencing an overdose, **call 911 right away and give a naloxone dose.** Though naloxone will not reverse the effects of xylazine if someone has taken it, it will help improve breathing if they have taken opioids.

Give another dose every 2-3 minutes until help arrives. If you can, give rescue breaths for CPR. If they vomit or you need to leave them, roll them onto their side in the recovery position. These steps can save someone's life.

Xylazine causes strong sedation. Even with naloxone, you may not be able to wake the person up.

Important to know:

- There are no special precautions or PPE needed beyond standard precautions for CPR for overdose with xylazine.
- Current drug test strips do not test for xylazine, though they may be available in the future.
- Learn more: [Xylazine | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)

