

# XYLAZINE IN THE DRUG SUPPLY

## XYLAZINE (ZIE-LUH-ZEEN)

### NAMES

Tranq  
AnaSed  
Rompún  
Horse tranquilizer  
Anestesia de caballo

- It's found in powder heroin/fentanyl mostly, and sometimes coke and meth
- It's not an opioid. It's a deep sedative, like clonidine or ketamine. It starts quickly and makes you fall out hard for about the first hour if you're not used to it
- Xylazine can give fentanyl legs so you're not sick again in two hours, but can be very dangerous when it shows up in dope unexpectedly
- If you have skin wounds that are not healing, it may be because of xylazine

## THE BAD STUFF

Xylazine causes really bad skin ulcers when injected, even beyond the site of injection, like anywhere with a bite or cut. Missed shots can make skin ulcers worse

Xylazine may cause a life-threatening drop in your blood's ability to carry oxygen to tissues (low blood iron, but we don't know a lot about this yet)

Other symptoms may include: High blood sugar; less bladder control; tired all the time; slower reflexes; trouble swallowing; really dry mouth

## HARM REDUCTION TIPS

- It is best to avoid dope with xylazine in it if you can
- Get your drugs tested at a harm reduction program if you can
- Don't use alone. Because of the heavy sedation, be aware of your surroundings and your possessions, especially if you're somewhere that's not secure
- Some harm reductionists think it may be safer to sniff/smoke/booty-bump dope with xylazine, but we don't know what other harms this can cause
- Try to be in a comfortable seated position, it's important to be in a position that doesn't cut off circulation to arms or legs
- Eat foods high in iron if xylazine is in your drug supply. Harm reduction programs can consider testing participants for hemoglobin using handheld devices

## OVERDOSE

- If someone is unresponsive, it's very very important to see if they are breathing! If they are taking 10 breaths each minute, keep an eye on them for the next hour. You don't need to use naloxone unless their breathing gets slower
- Naloxone doesn't work on xylazine BUT it will help if the opioid/fentanyl is making it hard for them to breathe
- Only if their breathing is slow or shallow, use naloxone the way you normally would (or titrate a lower dose of injectable naloxone), because they probably have opioids in their system too. They may not become responsive right away, but as long as they are taking 10 breaths per minute, just stay with them and keep checking. Put them in the recovery position if you have to leave them

FOR MORE RESOURCES, VISIT [HARMREDUCTION.ORG](https://harmreduction.org)

**NATIONAL  
HARM REDUCTION  
COALITION**

## INJECTING



Dope that's been cut with xylazine is sometimes darker, browner, chunkier, flakier, and weird-smelling. But dope that appears normal (white powder) can still have xylazine

Cooking it twice can help dissolve chunks. After drawing up, wipe off needle with an alcohol prep, let dry, THEN inject

Go as slow and precise as you can; for arms, use a tie and get the vein anchored. Count to 5 before taking the needle out. You want to avoid ANY leaking outside the vein and into the muscle or tissue

Short-tips (31g) may be higher-risk than regular 1/2" needles. Muscling and skin popping are EXTREMELY HIGH RISK for skin problems

Try booty-bumping or smoking from a hammer pipe; less injecting = less risk

## WOUNDS AND WOUND CARE TIPS



Xylazine wounds can take months or years to heal, and may not heal without medical care. Wounds can get very goopy/yellow/red/swollen/tend to be most painful at this stage

If the wound goes necrotic (dead black tissue; you'll know when it happens) go to an emergency room ASAP. The first step is cleaning the wound and removing some of the dead tissue and you may need skin surgery

Can appear anywhere there's an opening in your skin — NOT just where you inject. Try to keep all cuts/wounds/injection sites clean and covered

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**DISCLAIMER:** Advice in this guide comes from people who use xylazine or have used the tips they contributed. However, there's very little about xylazine that we know for sure, and wound progression in particular can vary widely

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- The only way to know for sure whether xylazine is in your dope is through drug checking machines, which very few harm reduction programs have
- If you are part of a drug user union, harm reduction program, or health department, you can get free drug checking kits for participants through this anonymous mail-in service <https://streetsafe.supply>
- If you are an individual and want to test your own supply by mail, Erowid's <https://DrugsData.org> offers an anonymous service (for a fee)
- 24/7 Never Use Alone Hotline: 800-484-3731

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