

Tranquilizers and Painkillers

Tranquilizers and painkillers are effective if you need them, but they are a prescription for disaster if you don't. Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines induce sleep, relieve anxiety, and treat seizure disorders. They are extremely addictive and overdosing on them is terribly easy. Sometimes abusers become confused under the influence, forget how much they have taken, take more, and die. Many end up in long-lasting comas. Drinking alcohol while taking barbiturates is like buying a ticket to the morgue.

Barbiturates and benzodiazepines are both depressants. They depress or slow down function in various areas of the brain. Barbiturates affect sleep, attention, integration of the senses, and maintenance of blood pressure and body temperature. Benzodiazepines act on the areas of the brain that control thought processes, memory, movement control, muscle tone, and balance.

Barbiturates are sometimes called Barbs, downers, sleepers, stumblers, yellow jackets, red dolls, tootsies, or rainbows.

Some of the effects of barbiturate and benzodiazepine abuse are:

- Sleepiness and deep sleep
- Slurred speech
- Poor coordination and falling
- Mood swings
- Involuntary jerking of the eyes
- Constricted pupils
- Slowed breathing rate
- Addiction
- Possible overdose
- Death can be possible if combined with alcohol

Opioid analgesics are powerful painkillers with sedative effects. They treat severe pain from surgery, injuries, chronic pain conditions, or terminal illnesses like cancer. Opioids are derived from opium, which is extracted from the seedpod of a particular kind of poppy plant. All Opioid drugs, including morphine and heroin, are tremendously addictive. Abusers are so addicted they've been known to act extremely violent to obtain drugs.

Opioid drugs bind rapidly to opioid receptors, and change the limbic system in the brain, which controls emotions. Then they block pain messages from the spinal cord to the body. Opioids also slow automatic body functions like breathing, heart rate and digestions.

Some of the effects of abusing opioid analgesics are:

- Temporary sense of well-being
- Lack of interest

- Drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Drooling or nodding
- Constipation
- Itchy skin or skin rash
- Depressed breathing

If someone offers you're a prescription drug, try a simple "no, thanks." If the person keeps pushing, beat a path to the exit. Someone pushing drugs on you is someone you don't need to be around. This article made possible by information from www.intheknowzone.com and ABC through Drug Free Communities.

