

# Xylazine FAQ



## **WHAT IS XYLAZINE?**

Xylazine is a non-opioid tranquilizer often used in veterinary medicine to sedate animals and is not approved for use with humans. Xylazine is also known by the names, “tranq” or “tranq dope.”

## **WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?**

Side effects can include sedation, drowsiness, slurred speech, slowed heart rate and disorientation. Xylazine can also cause wounds that appear as scrapes, burns, or ulcers.

## **WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF XYLAZINE IN NM?**

So far, none of the confirmed reports of xylazine in New Mexico have been attributed to an overdose or overdose fatality. Testing sites in Albuquerque and Espanola have identified locally sourced samples of illicitly manufactured fentanyl containing xylazine.

## **IS XYLAZINE BEING FOUND IN ALL DRUGS?**

No, xylazine is found almost exclusively in combination with illicitly manufactured fentanyl pills or powders. There have been no confirmed samples or reports in New Mexico of xylazine being in any other substance, including cannabis, meth, or cocaine.

## **HOW SHOULD A SUSPECTED XYLAZINE INVOLVED OD BE RESPONDED TO?**

If there is a suspected overdose involving opioids and xylazine, use naloxone to respond to the opioid overdose. If the person begins breathing again, but is not conscious, this could be due to the sedative nature of xylazine – put the person into recovery position. If the person does not regain consciousness and has not resumed breathing, call 911 and begin rescue breathing. While naloxone should be used in a situation where someone is not responsive and not breathing, it should not be continued to be used in increasing amounts as too much naloxone can cause withdrawal.

## **HOW CAN OVERDOSES OR UNWANTED EFFECTS BE BETTER PREVENTED?**

The best way to prevent an overdose and minimize risks when using substances is by utilizing harm reduction techniques, such as carrying naloxone, knowing how to perform rescue breathing, using fentanyl and xylazine test strips, using slowly, having a trusted friend/family member nearby, and using new and sterile supplies.

## **HOW CAN XYLAZINE WOUNDS BE TREATED?**

Xylazine wounds should be kept clean with soap and water, moisturized, and kept dressed. Individuals should seek medical attention if: the wound has caused an inability to move a joint or if there is decreased range of motion at the site of the wound, bone or tendon is exposed, the individual is experiencing signs and symptoms of systemic infection, or the individual is experiencing signs and symptoms of localized infection at the wound site (pain, odor, drainage, redness, etc.).

## **HOW ARE XYLAZINE WOUNDS DIFFERENT FROM ABSCESSSES?**

Unlike abscesses that develop at the site of injection, xylazine wounds can develop at and away from sites of use. Xylazine wounds can still develop even if the person is inhaling vapor “smoking” or snorting. Both xylazine wounds and abscesses are subject to infection and further health complications if not addressed.

**FIND RESOURCES AND ORDER NALOXONE  
AT [NMHARMREDUCTION.ORG](https://nmharmreduction.org)**