

MEDETOMIDINE

What is it?

Medetomidine is a veterinary sedative that is stronger than xylazine. It is not approved for use in humans.

Where is it?

Medetomidine has been found in multiple fentanyl samples in New Mexico. The amount of the drug varies across samples.

What does it do?

Medetomidine can cause deep sleep or sleepiness for a long time, low blood pressure, and low heart rate. It can also slow breathing.

Why is this important?

Medetomidine withdrawal can start quickly and be very serious. Sometimes people need to go to the hospital.

Bring this card to the hospital with you if you think you're experiencing medetomidine withdrawal.



Find Additional Resources
[NMHarmReduction.org](https://www.nmharmreduction.org)

Medetomidine Withdrawal Quick Guide

Medetomidine Withdrawal can Cause:

- Very fast heartbeat
- Very high blood pressure
- Going in and out of responding or being aware, even while awake
- Heavy sweating
- Shaking or twitching
- Anxiety and restlessness

Signs to go to the Hospital:

- Can't stop throwing up
- Have chest pain
- Going in and out of responding or being aware, even while awake
- Experiencing more severe withdrawal symptoms than usual

Guidance for Healthcare Providers Treating Medetomidine Withdrawal

Treating medetomidine withdrawal requires treating fentanyl withdrawal with long-acting opioid agonists like methadone and using adjunctive medications such as:

- clonidine
- guanfacine
- tizanidine
- dexmedetomidine
- ketamine
- olanzapine
- hydroxyzine
- benzodiazepines
- prochlorperazine
- chlorpromazine

For More Information



[NMHarmReduction.org](https://www.NMHarmReduction.org)