



Drug Fact Sheet

Methadone

Overview

Methadone is a synthetic (man-made) narcotic.

Street names

Amidone, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Fizzies, Maria, Pastora, Salvia, Street Methadone, Wafer

Looks like

Methadone is available as a tablet, disc, oral solution, or injectable liquid. Tablets are available in 5 mg and 10 mg formulations. As of January 1, 2008, manufacturers of methadone hydrochloride tablets 40 mg (dispersible) have voluntarily agreed to restrict distribution of this formulation to only those facilities authorized for detoxification and maintenance treatment of opioid addiction, and hospitals. Manufacturers will instruct their wholesale distributors to discontinue supplying this formulation to any facility not meeting the above criteria.



Methods of abuse

Methadone can be swallowed or injected.

Affect on mind

Abuse of methadone can lead to psychological dependence.

Affect on body

When an individual uses methadone, he/she may experience physical symptoms like sweating, itchy skin, or sleepiness. Individuals who abuse methadone risk becoming tolerant of and physically dependent on the drug. When use is stopped, individuals may experience withdrawal symptoms including: anxiety, muscle tremors, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal cramps.

Drugs causing similar effects

Although chemically unlike morphine or heroin, methadone produces many of the same effects.

Overdose effects

The effects of a methadone overdose are: slow and shallow breathing, blue fingernails and lips, stomach spasms, clammy skin, convulsions, weak pulse, coma, and possible death.

Legal status in the United States

Methadone is a Schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act. While it may legally be used under a doctor's supervision, its non-medical use is illegal.

Common places of origin

German scientists synthesized methadone during World War II because of a shortage of morphine. Methadone was introduced into the United States in 1947 as an analgesic (Dolophinel).