



# AMPHETAMINES

**adderall, dextedrine, vyvanse, methamphetamine**

**speed, ice, crystal, tina**

## What are Amphetamines?

- Amphetamine and methamphetamine are two similar central nervous stimulants of the phenethylamine family. Pharmaceutical amphetamine is a strong physical and mental stimulant available in prescription form.
- Amphetamine was first synthesized in 1887, and methamphetamine in 1893 and made available to treat narcolepsy and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) in the late 1930s. Amphetamines have been used by the military, pilots, truck drivers, and students in order to function past their normal limits.
- Common ADHD medications include Dexedrine, Adderall, Vyvanse, Ritalin and Concerta (methylphenidate). Amphetamines have also been called speed or dex.
- Amphetamines are a Schedule II drug, which means that it is illegal to sell, purchase or possess them without a prescription.

## How are Amphetamines used?

- Amphetamines can be swallowed, snorted, smoked, or injected.
- Swallowing is the most common method of using amphetamine. The effects come on gradually and last longer than with other methods.
- Snorting takes effect faster than swallowing but can it damage the nose.
- Smoking takes effect immediately and can more easily lead to addiction.
- Injecting is the method of using that most likely to lead to medical complications.

## What are the risks of injecting?

- The dose reaches the brain almost immediately, increasing the possibility of overdose.
- Impurities are introduced directly into the bloodstream and can cause septicemia and other infections.
- Repeated injections damage the veins, leading to thrombosis and abscesses.
- Sharing syringes can spread hepatitis and HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS.

## What are the effects of Amphetamines?

- Amphetamines produce alertness, increase in levels of energy, and stamina.
- Time released amphetamine tablets have a duration of up to 8 hours. Duration of effects can last up to 10 hours depending on dose and ROA.
- Increased doses can result in negative effects such as malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies, skin disorders, ulcers, lack of sleep, weight loss, depression, false sense of self-confidence, and possible brain damage.

- Both long term and infrequent users of speed report increased aggressiveness, paranoia, headache, increased heart rate and a rise in body temperature.
- Severe depression can occur from high or prolonged length of amphetamine use.
- Although rare, amphetamines can cause seizures, heart attacks, strokes, and death from overdose.

## Are Amphetamines addictive?

- Use of amphetamines can be habit forming and could cause psychological dependence. Regular use can produce a need to increase the dose to get the same effect, and can lead to physical dependence on the drug.

## What is the dosage of Amphetamine?

Every individual reacts differently to every chemical, This information is intended to describe the range of dosages others report using and it should not be construed as a recommendation of any sort. Individuals can respond very differently to the same dosage. What is safe for one can be deadly for another.

- Reagent test results for Methamphetamine, a common amphetamine and adulterant:
- | Marquis | Mecke | Mandelin |
|---------|-------|----------|
| Orange  | White | Green    |
- Oral doses of amphetamine range from 5 mg to 60 mg.
  - As with all black market drugs, the strength of "street" meth/amphetamine can vary widely. For methamphetamine oral doses range from 5mg to 150mg. Insufflated (snorted), smoked and injected doses all range from 5mg to 50mg. Amphetamine in the United States is almost always seen in pre-made pills ranging from 5mg to 30mg.

## Harm Reduction Tips for Amphetamines

- Combining amphetamines with other stimulants and/or anti-depressants can be very dangerous.
- Many methamphetamine users become physically run down, which leaves them susceptible to a wide range of illnesses. Extended use of can cause psychosis.
- Methamphetamine users are at higher HIV and Hepatitis risk through unsafe sex and needle sharing.
- Clean needles are available from needle exchange programs.
- "Counterfeit" pharmaceutical amphetamines, which are pressed to look like prescription drugs, can actually be a combination of various drugs, including a-pvp, fluorobutryl fentanyl, and methamphetamine