

AKA: BUPE, GRAPES, GREY NURSES,
GREYS, HILLBILLY HEROIN,
KICKERS, LEAN, MS CONTIN,
OC, ORANGES, OX, OXY, PURPLE
DRANK, SUBBIES

OPIODS



Disclaimer: This resource is produced by Hi-Ground & DanceWize. In an unregulated market it's impossible to know the purity or dose of any substance, educate yourself and practice harm reduction to reduce this risk. For more information visit www.hi-ground.org

Supported by: QuIVAA & QuIHN

Hi-Ground

Opioids are a class of central nervous system (CNS) depressant drugs that includes codeine, morphine, heroin, fentanyl, and many more. They are derived from, or similar to, substances found in the opium poppy, and include naturally occurring (i.e. opiates) and synthetic substances. Opioids are painkillers of varying potency. They are often prescribed for chronic or post-operative pain, or for short-term treatment of severe pain from injuries such as broken bones. Opioids are also commonly used recreationally, either through the illicit use of prescription opioids or through the use of illicit substances (especially heroin).

ADMINISTRATION

Most commonly swallowed but can also be shelved (rectal), snorted or injected (IV or IM liquids).



DURATION OF EFFECTS

Duration and Half Life is dependent on the type of opioid and differentiate between onset, peak and total durations. Research the specific pharmaceutical you are taking.

*Opioids vary in the duration of their effects. 15 minutes - 36 hours, e.g. pethidine is much shorter acting than oxycodone. Fentanyl can last for up to 72 hours.

Even though the apparent effects of the drug may have worn off, Opioids can stay active for a long period of time (up to a couple of days) dependent on what type. Do your research.

MOST COMMON EFFECTS

Pain Relief, Euphoria, Feeling of wellbeing, Contentment, Decreased heart rate, Decreased blood pressure, Warm sensations in extremities, Lethargy, Drowsiness, Constipation, Itchiness, Relief of anxiety, A 'rush' of warmth, Confusion, Constricted ("pinpoint") pupils, Slowed breathing.

LESS COMMON EFFECTS

Unconsciousness, Vomiting, Nausea, Sensitivity to light, Respiratory depression / failure, Paranoia, Muscle spasms, Death.

RARE EFFECTS

Risk of coma, Bluish fingers, toes, lips, Brain damage due to respiratory depression.

POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS

These effects are possible with extended use, Poor dental health with gum swelling and damaged teeth, Severe constipation, Malnutrition, Dependency and risk of acute withdrawal symptoms, Weakened immune system, Insomnia

DRUG TESTS

Roadside Police: Roadside saliva tests do not look for opioids but other substances can be detected that might have been cut into illicit opioids. It is illegal to drive under the influence of any illicit drugs, including opioids and any driver may be subject to a roadside behavioural impairment test. Wait at least 24 hours before driving.

Drug Checking: DIY reagent kits such as Mecke and Marquis produce reactions with opiates and it is advised to always use fentanyl testing strips to rule out adulterated opioids as it is 100 times stronger than heroin or morphine.

SAFER USING

- Use around friends/people you trust and in a safe environment - somewhere you feel comfortable
- Wait at least 30mins after eating before taking.
- Each opioid is different, and strength can vary greatly so start with a small dose.
- When prescribed by a doctor, opioid medications come with dosage instructions.
- Carry naloxone. Depending on your state you can either buy naloxone over the counter in a pharmacy with/without a prescription. QulHN's NSP service also offer free naloxone training and then you receive a free take home one with you.

SWALLOWING

- Use as per recommended on packaging if available.

INJECTING

- Many opioids are now tamper proof and do not mix up well. This can result in dangerous outcomes if injecting. Many also now contain naloxone and people need to be mindful of this to avoid withdrawal effects.
- Avoid Blood Borne Viruses by using new & sterile syringes & equipment.
- Use sterile water to mix up.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after, you can also use an alcohol swab to clean your fingertips.
- Alcohol wipes can reduce the risk of skin infections if they are used correctly. For maximum effect, swab once, in one direction on the injection site, and leave to dry naturally.
- Dispose of syringes & equipment responsibly in a yellow disposal bin, all NSPs have bins available.