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Ecstasy



What are the street names/slang terms?

Ecstasy, Adam, E, Molly, Roll, X, XTC

What is Ecstasy?

MDMA or Ecstasy (3-4-methylenedioxyamphetaminemine), is a synthetic, psychoactive drug with amphetamine-like and hallucinogenic properties.

What does it look like?

Ecstasy comes in a tablet form that is often branded, e.g. Playboy bunnies, Nike swoosh, CK. MDMA also comes in a powder, capsule or liquid form.

How is it used?

Taken in pill form, users sometimes take Ecstasy at “raves,” clubs and other parties to keep on dancing and for mood enhancement.

What are its short-term effects?

Users report that Ecstasy produces intensely pleasurable effects — including a boost in energy and empathy. Users say they experience feelings of closeness with others and a desire to touch others. Other effects can include involuntary teeth clenching, a loss of inhibitions, nausea, blurred vision, chills and/or sweating. Increases in heart rate and blood pressure, as well as seizures, are also possible. The stimulant effects of the drug enable users to dance for extended periods, which when combined with the hot crowded conditions usually found at raves, can lead to severe dehydration and hyperthermia (i.e. dramatic increases in body temperature). This can lead to muscle breakdown and kidney, liver and cardiovascular failure. Hyperthermia has also been reported in some of the Ecstasy-related fatalities. After-effects can include sleep problems, anxiety and depression.

What are its long-term effects?

Repeated use of Ecstasy ultimately may damage the cells that produce serotonin, which has an important role in the regulation of mood, appetite, learning and memory. There already is research suggesting Ecstasy use can disrupt or interfere with memory.

What is its federal classification?

Schedule I

[Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)]

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