

XYLAZINE:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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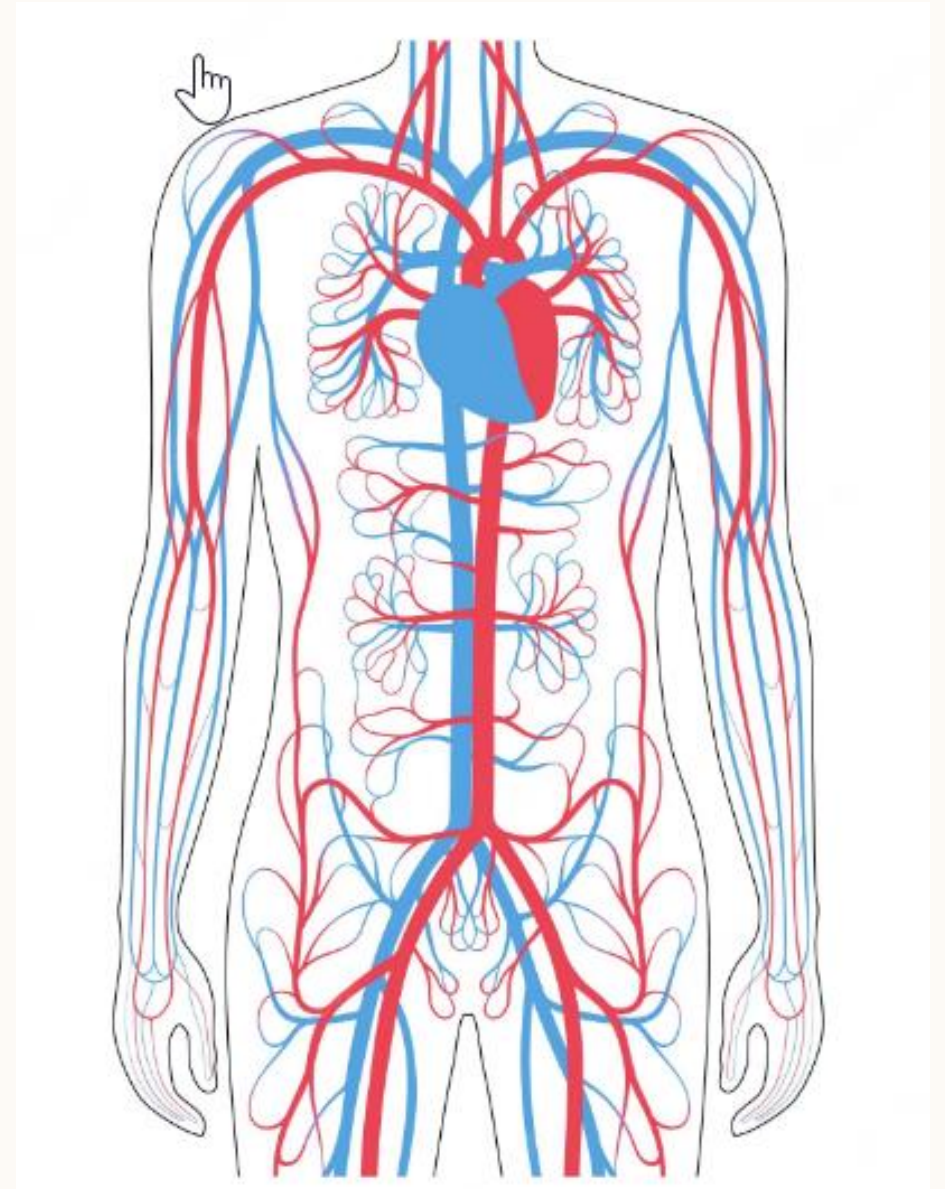
WHAT IS XYLAZINE?



- Often called ‘tranq’ or ‘tranq dope’
- Large animal tranquilizer not approved for human use
- Combined with fentanyl and/ or heroin to prolong effects
- Has been in Puerto Rico for years
- Moved to mainland US East Coast--especially Philadelphia--in the late 2000’s
- Has been found in CA for the past four+ years, but is not currently common in the CA supply
- Most fentanyl users currently unaware of it and/ or do not want it

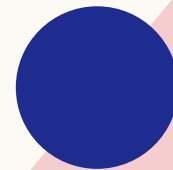
PHARMACOLOGY

- Added to fentanyl to give it 'longer legs'
- Routes of administration include smoking, snorting, injecting and injeesting
- Not an opioid- won't respond to naloxone
- Causes heavy sedation
- Vasoconstrictive: Slows breathing, circulation, and blood pressure
- Can lead to severe necrotic wounds
- Can be much harder to 'kick' than opioids



PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

“Hope for the best, prepare for the worst”



XYLAZINE OVERDOSE

- Naloxone is still important
- Rescue breathing is key
- Longer recovery time vs. opioids alone
- Support patients with management of extreme withdrawal symptoms post-overdose
- If overdose is fatal, toxicology reports should be as specific as possible to ensure accurate COD attribution



The background features a large, light pink circle in the center. To its right is a thick circular ring, the left portion of which is red and the right portion is dark blue. In the bottom-left corner, there are two overlapping triangles: a light blue one on the left and a red one on the right.

**CONTENT
WARNING:
GRAPHIC WOUND
IMAGES AHEAD**



XYLAZINE WOUNDS

Know and understand wound care needs specific to xylazine:

- Wounds can occur in those who do not inject, and may not be at the site of injection for those who do
- Treat wounds differently than typical injection-related bacterial infections:
 - Antibiotics may not be needed
 - Early detection is key- start as small and 'bruise-like'
 - Keep wound bed clean and moist
 - Cover wounds and change dressing daily (where possible)
 - **Most amputation is preventable!**





TRAUMA

- Additional losses of loved ones to overdose
- Wounds
- Extreme sedation can lead to an elevated risk of:
 - Robbery
 - Sexual assault
 - Incidental accidents

Be prepared to support people who are dealing with physical and/ or emotional trauma

WHAT IS CDPH DOING?

- Monitoring the situation
- Sharing information and resources
- Supporting syringe services programs:
 - Technical assistance
 - Xylazine test strips
 - Wound care supplies

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Stay calm
- Push back on dehumanizing narratives of people who use drugs
- Improve monitoring
- Invest in & support drug checking programs
- Connect with your local syringe services programs
- Prepare clinicians and social workers
- Be mindful of unintended consequences of criminalization approaches



QUESTIONS?

MORE RESOURCES

- CDPH:
 - [Xylazine Issue Brief](#) (March 2023)
 - [Xylazine Fact Sheet](#) (March 2023)
- National Harm Reduction Coalition: [Xylazine](#) (webpage and webinar)
- Homeless and Housing Resource Center: [Xylazine: An Introduction for Service Providers Working with Unhoused Individuals](#) (webinar, July 2023)
- Substance Use Philly: [Downloadable outreach flyer](#)
- New York State DPH: [Xylazine: What Clinicians Need to Know](#)
- FDA Warning: [Xylazine in Humans](#)
- [Changing the Narrative](#)



THANK YOU

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