



## HEROIN, MORPHINE, PETHIDINE & CODEINE

**Street Names:** Smack, horse, junk, H, brown sugar.

Heroin, oh boy, where do we even begin? Well, this infamous drug belongs to the opioid family, which means it's a close cousin of painkillers like morphine and codeine. But don't let its fancy relation fool you—heroin is a whole different beast altogether. It's derived from morphine, but it's way more potent and has a reputation for wreaking havoc on people's lives.

Aside from the fact that it's illegal in most places (unless you have a medical license), there are some physical clues you can look for. Heroin usually appears as a fine, white powder, or sometimes as a sticky, brownish substance known as black tar.

When it comes to consuming heroin, people have their own little toolkits. You might stumble upon needles, syringes, spoons, lighters, and even small pieces of foil that have been used to heat the drug. It's like a DIY project gone wrong, but with serious health risks or even death as the end result.

### **Morphine**

Ah, morphine, the more civilized cousin of heroin. While it's also derived from the opium poppy plant, it's often used as a legitimate painkiller in hospitals. Unlike heroin, it doesn't have the same stigma, but that doesn't mean it's harmless. Morphine is a potent opioid that can cause drowsiness, constipation, and even that delightful feeling of being a sloth on a sunny afternoon.

The similarities and differences between these opioid siblings is that both morphine and heroin come from the same plant, and both have the potential to take you on a wild ride. However, heroin is more potent and quickly crosses the blood-brain barrier, leading to a faster and more intense high. Morphine, on the other hand, is often administered in controlled medical settings and carries a less nefarious reputation. But remember, just because it's used in hospitals

doesn't mean it's a good idea to play doctor with it yourself.

### **Pethadine**

Pethadine is an alternative painkiller. When it comes to managing pain, there are various options available, and one alternative to consider is pethadine. Pethadine, also known as meperidine, is a synthetic opioid analgesic that is commonly used to relieve moderate to severe pain. It belongs to the same class of drugs as heroin and morphine, but it has some important differences. Unlike heroin, which is primarily used illegally as a recreational drug, pethadine is a legitimate medication that is prescribed by healthcare professionals. It is often used to manage post-surgical pain, labor pain during childbirth, and chronic pain conditions. Pethadine can provide effective relief, but it is important to note that it can be habit-forming and should only be used under medical supervision.

### **Codeine**

Codeine is an opioid medication widely used for its use of management of pain or as a cough suppressant. Its use is regulated due to potential side effects like drowsiness, constipation, nausea, and respiratory depression when taken in excessive doses or in combination with other central nervous system depressants such as alcohol. Moreover, concerns regarding misuse and abuse have led to stricter regulations surrounding codeine-containing medications worldwide. Thus, careful consideration of patient factors such as age, medical history, and concomitant medication use should be employed when prescribing codeine.

### **Short-term Effects**

When heroin takes the stage, you can expect a rush of euphoria, followed by a wave of warm fuzziness. But it's not all rainbows and unicorns. Brace yourself for drowsiness, slowed breathing, dry mouth, and even some vomiting with constipation. Oh, and if you have a plate of food on your lap, chances are you'll end up with a face full of it.

### **Long-term Effects**

Long-term effects are like that annoying guest who overstays their welcome. Heroin addiction can lead to a whole bunch of problems, from collapsed veins and liver disease lung infections and heart problems. It can also lead to increased risk of infections such as HIV, hepatitis, collapsed veins, liver and kidney damage, and mental health problems. Additionally, repeated heroin injections can lead to vein damage and even amputation.

One of the most alarming aspects of heroin use is the risk of overdose. The potency of street heroin can vary greatly, making it difficult to determine a safe dosage. This unpredictability increases the likelihood of accidental overdose, which can have fatal consequences. According to statistics, heroin overdose deaths have surged in recent years, highlighting the urgency of addressing this on-going public health crisis.

If you don't overdose and die, let's not forget about the psychological toll it takes—depression, anxiety, and general chaos in your life. Trust me; you don't want to go down that rabbit hole.

Heroin is like the worst, most wicked drug out there. It's like this sneaky snake that pretends to be your best bud, always ready to make you feel better, but the catch is that it is actually controlling you, making you do whatever it wants. It's not just messing with your insides, but also your mind and heart. In the end, it straight-up destroys you, like, emotionally, mentally, and even physically. It's like the ultimate betrayal that leads to death.