

What are Hallucinogens?

Hallucinogens (also known as psychedelics) are mood-altering drugs that affect the central nervous system (CNS), including thinking, awareness, and the five senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching).

Hallucinogens are different from other drugs that affect the central nervous system in that they can cause people to see objects that aren't real! It's like thinking you see a dog walk down the street when there's no dog!

Hallucinogens can also make users experience feelings that aren't real. People may say, "I can see sounds and hear colors!"




Some of these changes can be scary.

All Hallucinogens are ILLEGAL...



...with the exception of peyote (pay-OH-tee) which is used by some Native American churches in their religious ceremonies.



What are the names of some Hallucinogens?



SLANG

NAME

LSD

(lysergic acid diethylamide)

“acid,” “windowpane,”
“blotter,” “hits”

Mescaline

“mesc”

Psilocybin

“magic mushrooms,”
“shrooms,” “silly putty”

PCP

(phencyclidine)


“angel dust,”
“hog,” “tac”

Ketamine

“special k,” “vitamin K,”
“cat,” “cat T,” “cat trunk,”
“jet,” “bumps”

MDMA

“XTC,” “X,” “ecstasy,” “E,” “Rolls”



Where do Hallucinogens come from?

LSD is synthetic or man-made. It is a clear liquid substance that is manufactured in illegal laboratories.

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Mescaline is semi-synthetic, made from the button-like, edible part of the peyote cactus plant.

continued...

How Hallucinogens Affect...

The Mind

(Psychological Effects)

- The effects of most hallucinogens (except PCP and Ketamine) are mainly psychological.
- They **change** the way the **brain interprets messages** sent to it from the 5 senses.
In other words, a person may think he or she is seeing or hearing something different from what is actually there.
- This can be **intriguing**, **scary**, or even **dangerous**.
- Users never know exactly what they will think or feel.
- Sometimes people have **“bad trips.”** This means they have a very scary (sometimes even dangerous) experience with the drug.



The Body

(Physical Effects)



- Increased heart rate
- Increased blood pressure
- Increased body temperature
- Sweating
- Dry mouth
- Sleeplessness
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting (especially with mescaline and mushrooms)
- Tremors
- Decreased coordination

How long do the effects of Hallucinogens last?



- A trip can last **8 to 10 hours**.
- This may seem longer or shorter because time and space can also become distorted while on the drug. Time may seem to speed up or slow down.



Sounds like it's really **HARD** to predict what will happen when you take one of these drugs!

You can say that again!




Reactions To Hallucinogens Often Depend On:

1. **WHICH** drug is used
2. What **OTHER** substances dealers may have added
3. How **MUCH** is actually taken
4. How people feel about **THEMSELVES**
5. How users feel about the **PEOPLE** they're with
6. How they feel about the **PLACE** they're at
7. How they **EXPECT** the drug to affect them

A Word About...PCP

- PCP is a unique blend of hallucinogen. It can produce both stimulant AND depressant effects!



- It also seems to affect certain people in bizarre  and violent ways! For example, PCP makes people unaware of pain which can lead to serious injuries... like putting a hand over a flame and not feeling the intense burn.

The damage is real, however, and the person **WILL** feel it later, when the drug wears off.



- People who use PCP may also become fearful or paranoid to the point of suicide!
- High doses may cause convulsions, respiratory failure, even DEATH!

Why do people use PCP?



For all the same reasons they try other drugs, such as:

- ➔ Curiosity
- ➔ Peer pressure
- ➔ To escape from uncomfortable feelings or problems!

How can I recognize PCP?



A laboratory test is the **only** sure way to tell!

A Word About...Ketamine

Ketamine is chemically related to PCP. It is a powerful anesthetic used by doctors (both human and veterinarian) when they operate on a patient. It comes in liquid, crystal, or powder form.

When used illegally, Ketamine is usually snorted, smoked on marijuana, or put into a drink.

What are the effects of Ketamine and PCP?



- Anesthesia** — loss of sensation, inability to feel pain
- Tranquilization** — a temporary decrease of tension and anxiety
- Disconnected** — not feeling connected to reality, not able to respond to others

Can this be dangerous?



Absolutely!! Because...

- Users receive no pain messages even when something really **IS** wrong.
- People experience loss of motor control. **That means they can't walk, talk right, or call for help.** That sets them up to be perfect victims.....ones who can't complain, fight back, or even remember what happened clearly enough to tell the police.
- High doses may cause convulsions, respiratory failure, even death !!

A Word About...Ecstasy

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine or XTC
(Aren't you glad it has a shorter nickname?)
is a complex drug that has two main effects. One is a "speed" like
burst of energy that lasts for several hours.
The other is a change in emotions.



What kinds of
emotions does
XTC create?

Ecstasy creates a **FALSE** sense of
trust, bonding, and belonging.
It makes people **THINK** everyone
really cares about them.



What does it
look like and
how is it used?

Ecstasy is illegally made in both Europe
and in the United States. Ecstasy
from Europe usually looks like a
medium sized pill that comes in many
different colors, decorated with over
100 possible symbols. XTC made
illegally in the USA often comes in take
apart capsules filled with powder.

Sometimes the powder has other drugs — like heroin, methamphetamine,
or PCP — in it, along with the Ecstasy. Some confiscated samples have
contained NO XTC at all, but high doses of Ephedrine or caffeine instead.

Another danger with Ecstasy capsules is that the powder they contain can be
emptied into liquid and then swallowed sometimes without the drinker's
knowledge or consent (that means permission)!



What are
the dangers
of XTC?

- Sometimes people trust the
wrong groups or individuals, and,
without meaning to, become
"victims" of a variety of crimes.
- When the effects of the drug
wear off, people often feel
isolated, lonely, and
depressed...sometimes even
suicidal.
- Using XTC at a hot, crowded party or dance club could cause
overheating and collapse...possibly even death.
- Lastly, like all hallucinogens, XTC is **illegal**.
So potentially there also could be trouble with the law.

Some Questions About Hallucinogens



1. What is a “flashback?”

A “flashback” is when people all of a sudden feel like they’re re-experiencing a hallucinogen without having taken any more. The emotional memory of a “bad trip” can be stored in the brain for a **L.....O.....N.....G** time and can come back at any time, without warning.



2. Can people become dependent on hallucinogens?

Yes! People can become psychologically dependent on hallucinogens. Tolerance can also develop.



3. Why do drug dealers sometimes substitute a more dangerous substance, like PCP, for other drugs?

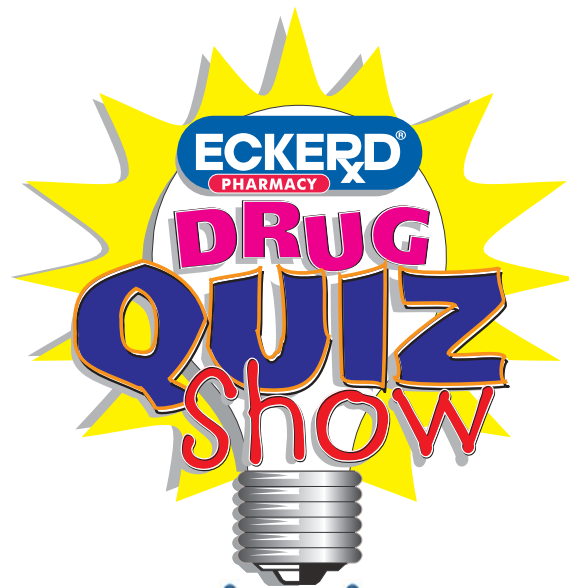
Drug dealers do this to make more money. Instead of giving a more expensive drug (such as LSD, Mescaline, or THC), they substitute PCP which is cheaper and easier to get.



4. Why are the effects of hallucinogens so unpredictable?

The effects of hallucinogens are unpredictable because the circumstances under which people use them can never be totally duplicated. Slight changes in the amount of drug taken, the scenery, the people, or even the mood of the user can cause totally different effects.





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