

Question:

Drugs area of the brain do drugs depressed breathing?

Answer:

The Brain Stem, is the posterior, stem-like, base of the brain. It sends the body messages that includes breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, swallowing, consciousness and sleepiness. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) stated, *“the brain is a communications center consisting of billions of neurons, or nerve cells. Networks of neurons pass message back and forth among different structures within the brain.”*

Toxin chemicals tap into the communication system, mimicking natural chemicals, causing the neurons to send, receive and process the wrong information. That means abnormal, unhealthy messages. Example, a drug that is a depressant, may send a message to continuously slow the breathing, and in doing so, the brain loses stages of alertness and in some cases, leads to the shutting down of the brain.

(Drugs Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addictions. National Institute on Drugs Abuse. NIH)