

# Street Drug Pharmacology 2021: Dissociative Anesthetics

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Emerging Drugs of Abuse discussion group

# Dissociative anesthetics

- Phencyclidine (PCP)
- Ketamine
- Dextromethorphan (DXM)

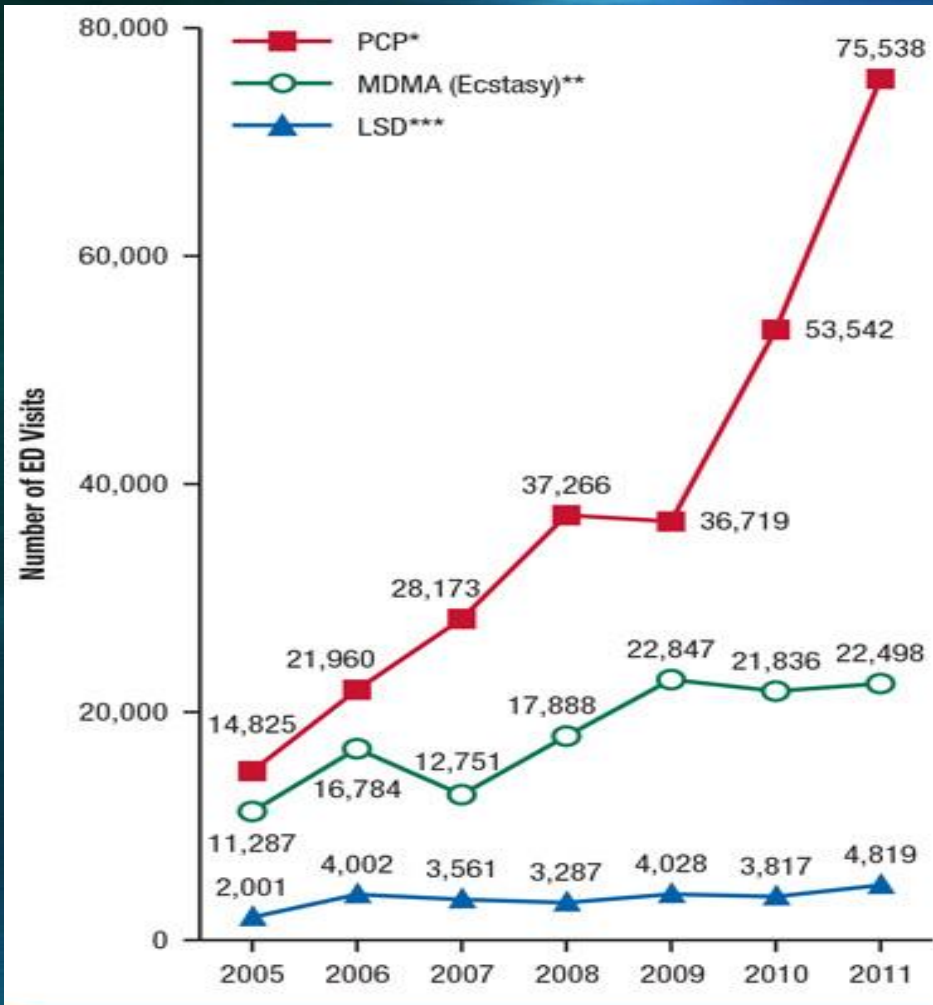
# Dissociative anesthetics: Basics

- Addiction potential low to moderate
- Tolerance develops
- Withdrawal symptoms mild
- Moderate to high potential for immediate physical toxicity
- Potential for long-term physical toxicity varies
- Potential for acute and chronic psychiatric impairment moderate to high
- NMDA/glutamate antagonist



# PCP

- Angel dust
- Sherms
- Dips
- Fry
- Embalming fluid



+500%

\* The number of visits involving PCP in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 is significantly different from 2011 at the .05 level.

\*\* The number of visits involving MDMA (Ecstasy) in 2005 and 2007 is significantly different from 2011 at the .05 level.

\*\*\* The number of visits involving LSD in 2005 is significantly different from 2011 at the .05 level.

Source: 2005 to 2011 SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).

ED visits involving PCP, LSD and MDMA: 2005-2011

# PCP

- Oral (rare)
- Intranasal
- Smoked (on marijuana, mint, parsley)
- i.v. (rare)





# PCP

- (Not used medically)
- Floating feeling
- Sedation
- Euphoria
- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Depersonalization
- Derealization
- Loss of ego boundaries
- Panic

# PCP

- Bizarre behavior
- Aggressive behavior
- Hallucinations (rare)



# PCP

- Numbness
- Ataxia
- Increased blood pressure
- Nystagmus
- Seizures

# Ketamine (Ketalar)

- “Special K”
- Intravenous anesthetic
- Post-operative pain management with an opioid
- Also used in veterinary medicine
- Many of the same effects as PCP
- Fewer negative effects
- Short-acting (20-60 minutes)

# Ketamine

- Addiction rare in U.S., More Common in Europe
- Heavy use →→→→→ Severe bladder infection/destruction



# Ketamine: Treatment of depression

- Single sub-anesthetic dose
- Provide relief for 1-2 weeks

# DXM

- Dextromethorphan
- In OTC cough medicines
- Often kept behind counter
- Robotussin DM
- Coricidin cough and cold = “Skittles”, “3-C”
- Similar to ketamine and PCP, but less intense effects except in large doses
- “Robotripping”