

OPIOIDS

Opioids are a class of highly addictive drugs that derives from the opium poppy plant. Opioids are made to mimic feel good receptors in the brain and are most commonly used as prescription painkillers.



IDENTIFICATION

Types of Opioids: Morphine, Fentanyl, Meperidine, Alfentanil, Remifentanil, Sufentanil, Etorphine, Codeine, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Methadone.

What's it Look Like? Opioids take many forms including a white powder, liquid, pills and even lollipops.

How's it used? Users typically smoke, snort, inject, ingest, or chew forms of opioids.

What's it Do? Opioid drugs work by fusing to the body's opiate receptors, the areas of the brain that control pain and emotions. When opiate drugs fuse to these receptors, they can drive up dopamine levels in the brain's reward areas, producing a state of euphoria and relaxation.

Warning Signs of Abuse

- Isolation from family and friends
- Poor academic performance and a lack of interest in school
- Extreme changes in appearance and attitude
- Difficulty communicating
- Injection wounds or track marks
- Fatigue followed by patterns of alertness

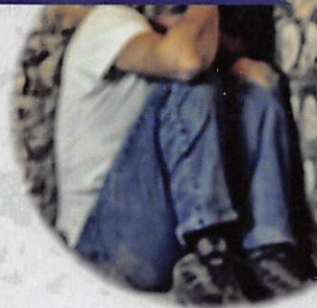


Facts about Opioids

- Without a prescription, opioids are illegal. If you are caught with it, you could be looking at serious consequences, like jail time and a criminal record.
- Opioids are the most highly addictive drug class there is.
- Abusers are typically weaned off of opioids gradually to safely manage some of the negative withdrawal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, rapid heart beat, and high blood pressure."

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

- Vomiting and nausea
- Collapsed veins from injecting
- Risk of overdose
- Track marks, sores and itching at the injection sites
- Risk of being exposed to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis from sharing needles
- Painful withdrawal symptoms, including insomnia, diarrhea and vomiting, muscle aches and chills
- Death



LONG-TERM EFFECTS

- Insomnia
- Depression
- Risk of liver and kidney disease
- Infection of the heart lining
- Heart problems



Saying "No" to Opioids

Never be confrontational when asked to try opioids, or any other drug. You can simply say "No", or you can try one of these:

- "No way. Needles freak me out."
- "Sorry. I don't need another bad habit."
- "That's not my thing."

JUST THE FACTS

WOMEN & OPIOIDS

The term "opioids" covers a massive variety of drugs, all ranging from legal drugs like morphine to illegal drugs like heroin. Their main job is to act on the central nervous system to relieve pain. Some opioids can be safe when prescribed by a doctor for a short time and in small doses. When abused, opioids can lead to feelings of euphoria on top of pain relief, but they can also lead to addiction, overdose or death.



IDENTIFICATION

How Do Opioids Affect a Woman Differently?

- **Estrogen.** Estrogen is the primary female sex hormone, but it also plays an important role in how pain is experienced in the brain. Women, therefore, are able to experience greater relief from opioids than men.
- **Glucose.** Glucose in the brain is necessary for self-control. In the middle of the menstrual cycle, glucose is lower, which can explain why women have a harder time quitting once addicted to painkillers.
- **Stomach Acidity.** Women's stomachs are generally less acidic than men's, which can make a woman feel the effects of drugs faster and more powerfully.
- **Liver.** Men's livers are usually better at breaking down medications faster than a woman's liver can, meaning the drug is in a woman's system longer.



Facts about Women and Opioids

Up until 1990, women weren't even allowed to participate in clinical testing. Even today, most drugs are often tested on only men because drug manufacturers perceive women's hormones as seen as variable that could affect the outcome of the trial. According to a government report, 8 out of 10 drugs that were pulled from the market between 1997 and 2001 by the FDA were pulled because they posed more health risks to women than men. According to the CDC, 48,000 women died between 1999 and 2010 from prescription drug overdose, which is an increase of more than 400%! Men, on the other hand, saw an increase of approximately 250% in those same years.

PREGNANCY AND OPIOID USE

With opioid addiction becoming more rampant throughout the United States, it only makes sense, unfortunately, that more children are being born into opioid addiction. According to the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration:

- Heroin use rose by 100%, compared to 50% among men, from 2002 to 2013.
- From 2000 to 2009, the number of babies born with opioid dependence increased from 1.19 to 5.63 per 1,000 hospital births.
- From 2009 to 2012, infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) increased from 3.4 to 5.8 per 1,000 hospital births. NAS is a group of problems that occur when the mother used addictive drugs like heroin, codeine, oxycodone, or methadone while pregnant.
- In 2012 alone, more than 20,000 infants born in the United States had signs of opioid withdrawal at birth.



JUST THE FACTS



GRAVE ALTERATIONS

Even though the DEA has taken steps to control Pink by classifying it as an illegal substance, manufacturers can simply tweak the chemical compounds to keep this deadly substance on the streets. As they're constantly altering the chemicals, you just never know for certain what you're taking and how it will affect you. One thing's for sure though—it won't be good.

Facts and Stats of Opiate Use in the United States


- A survey in 2010 revealed that of the 210 million opioid prescriptions filled, 12 million people admitted to abusing opioids by taking them for non-medical reasons.
- 75% of heroin users started out by abusing prescription opioids. Since Pink is still such a relatively new drug, there isn't enough data to clarify how many users started with prescription drugs.
- More people have died from opioid overdose than any other overdose of an illicit drug.
- More people die from opioid overdose than any other drug. Experts are describing the opioid epidemic as deadlier than the crack epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s.

The United States is not the only country to have a severe opioid abuse problem. People throughout Europe have also died from Pink, so countries like Sweden and Finland have been among the first to ban the drug.

TEST YOURSELF

1. All you used to need to purchase Pink was an internet connection and a credit card.
a. True b. False
2. Pink is an opioid, just like morphine, Percocet, or Vicodin.
a. True b. False
3. Which of the following is a side effect from using Pink?
a. Pinpoint Pupils b. Numbness
c. Death d. All of the above
4. "Not for Human Consumption" means the drug is safe to take.
a. True b. False
5. Pink is made from grounding up pink flower petals, so it's a natural substance.
a. True b. False

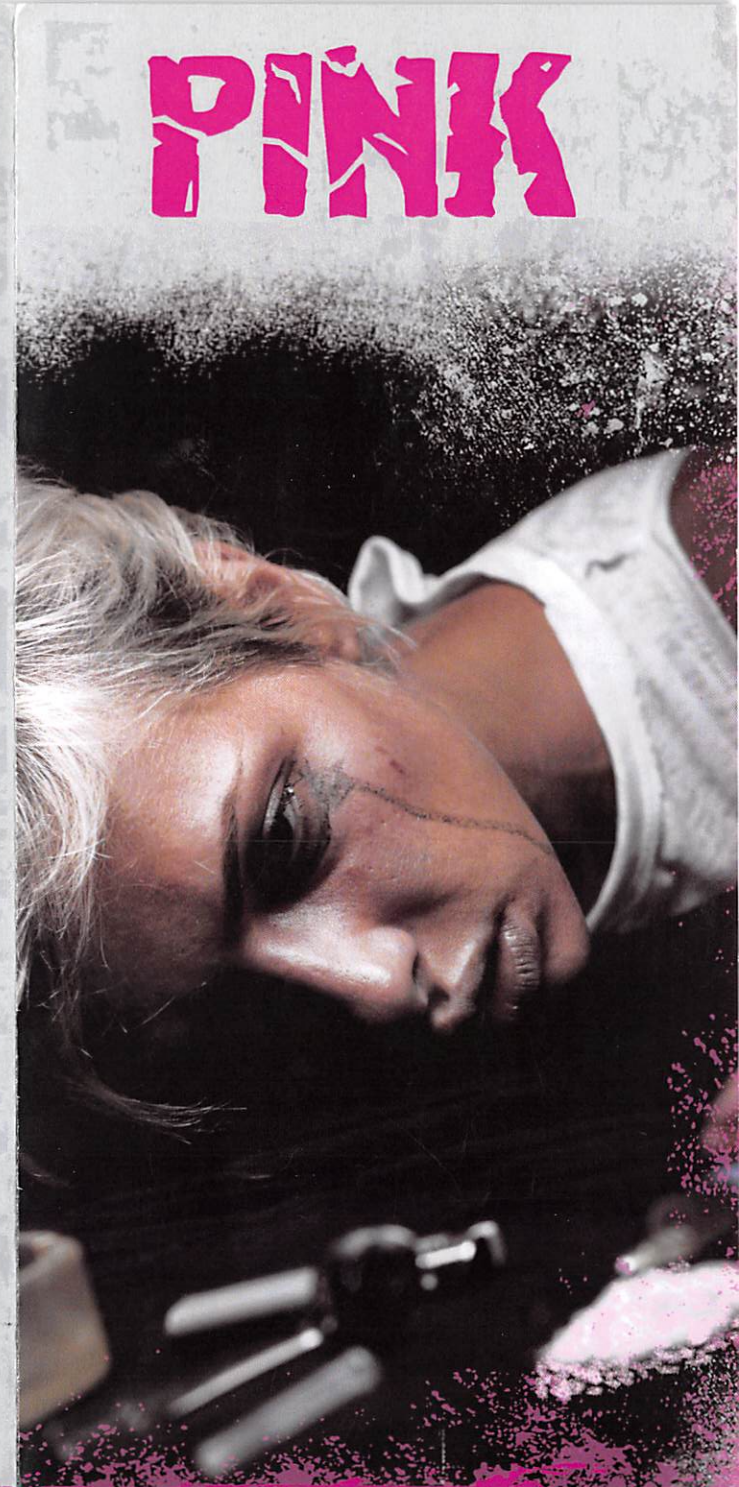
Answers: 1.A 2.A 3.D 4.B 5.B

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STAY SAFE SERIES

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PINK



NOT SO PRETTY

SOUNDS HARMLESS

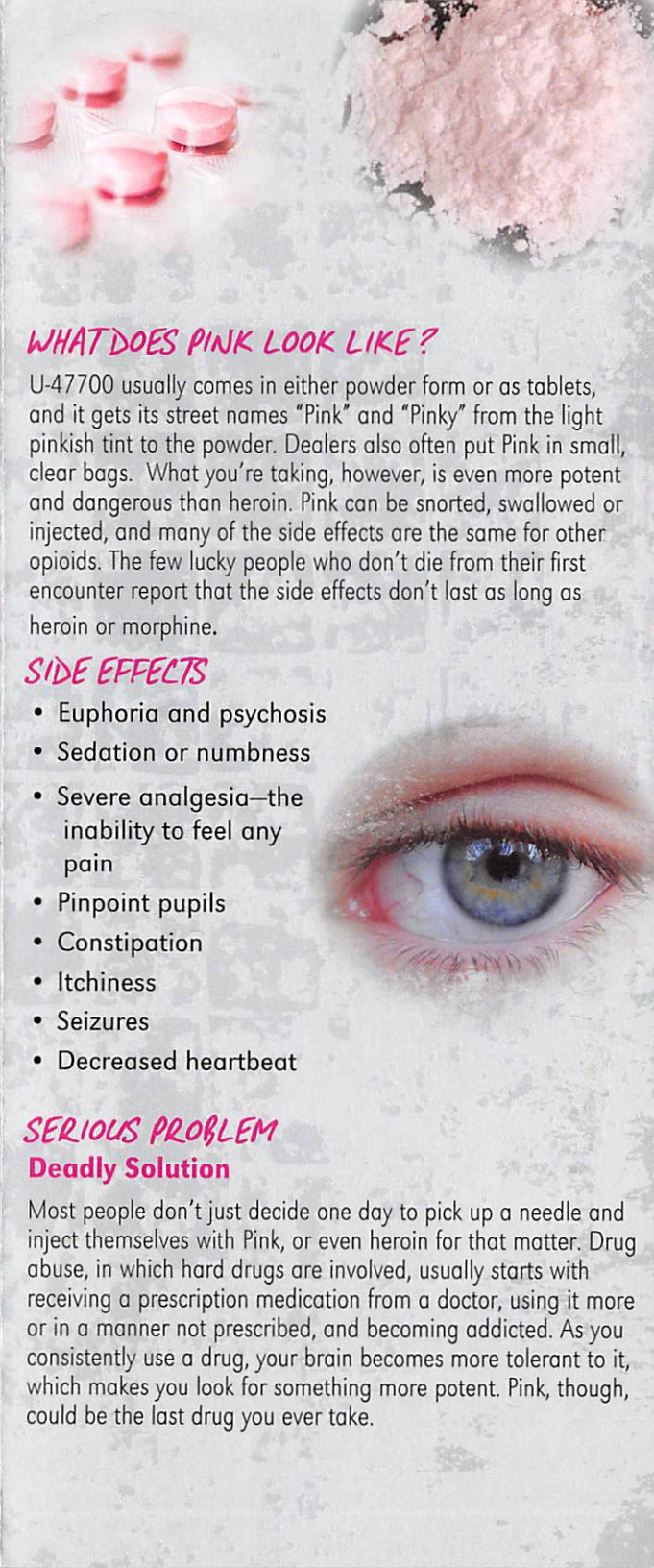
What is Pink?

No, not the color. Pink, also known as U-47700, is a highly dangerous and addictive opioid that is illegally circulating throughout the United States and is contributing to a national opioid abuse epidemic. Opioids have been designed to act on the central nervous system to relieve pain. Opioids like oxycodone, codeine or morphine have to be prescribed by a doctor for you to use them legally. Even then, doctors recommend using opioids only for a short time and in small doses because of how addictive they can be. Illegal opioids, like heroin, have pain relief qualities, but they can also lead to addiction, overdose or death. Pink has been described by drug abuse experts to be even more potent than heroin.

Because it's manufactured in labs in China and not found in nature, Pink is considered a synthetic drug. A common problem with synthetic drugs is inconsistency across batches. You just never truly know what you're taking. Even in small doses, Pink can be extremely toxic.

HOW DOES IT GET HERE?

Anyone with an internet connection and a credit card used to be able to just purchase Pink online. To avoid any kind of legal red tape, the manufacturers marketed the drug as a "research chemical." They also put labels that would state "Not for Human Consumption" or "For Research Purposes Only" to evade suspicion. It wasn't until people started dying that it was classified as a Schedule I Drug.



WHAT DOES PINK LOOK LIKE?

U-47700 usually comes in either powder form or as tablets, and it gets its street names "Pink" and "Pinky" from the light pinkish tint to the powder. Dealers also often put Pink in small, clear bags. What you're taking, however, is even more potent and dangerous than heroin. Pink can be snorted, swallowed or injected, and many of the side effects are the same for other opioids. The few lucky people who don't die from their first encounter report that the side effects don't last as long as heroin or morphine.

SIDE EFFECTS

- Euphoria and psychosis
- Sedation or numbness
- Severe analgesia—the inability to feel any pain
- Pinpoint pupils
- Constipation
- Itchiness
- Seizures
- Decreased heartbeat

SERIOUS PROBLEM Deadly Solution

Most people don't just decide one day to pick up a needle and inject themselves with Pink, or even heroin for that matter. Drug abuse, in which hard drugs are involved, usually starts with receiving a prescription medication from a doctor, using it more or in a manner not prescribed, and becoming addicted. As you consistently use a drug, your brain becomes more tolerant to it, which makes you look for something more potent. Pink, though, could be the last drug you ever take.



PAUL'S STORY

Sitting hunched over on the edge of the bed in a dirty motel, Paul held the little clear bag in his hands. In the little bag was just a smidge of pinkish powder. His drug dealer said how awesome this stuff was, how it numbed away any pain he was feeling and how euphoric and psychedelic everything would become. Paul was a veteran, and even though he had lost his leg in the war, the trauma from losing all of his combat friends was even more painful.

What had started as an addiction to his sleep medication and painkillers had developed into a full-blown heroin addiction. After months of abusing heroin, even that wasn't enough to help him block out his memories and fill in the gaps he felt. Paul knew this stuff would be stronger than anything he had ever experienced, but it never occurred to him that the drug could kill him. Not from using it just one time.

Just as he was putting the pink powder into the syringe, the news channel that had been on in the background began to flash red with an urgent news report. As he turned up the volume, he began to hyperventilate as he realized what he was about to do. The very same drug that was in his syringe, that was about to be in his arm, had just killed two young boys in his neighborhood. "What in the world am I doing?!" Paul screamed out loud. The cold, sudden realization washed over him. He emptied the powder down the sink and broke his syringes. "I've got to get help," he thought to himself, "I can't keep living like this anymore."

