

DISSOCIATIVE ANESTHETICS

Dissociative drugs are a class of hallucinogen and are known for altering perceptions of sight, sound and connections with one's surroundings. When taken, they generate feelings of separation, or dissociation, from the environment and self. While certain dissociative drugs no longer have any forms of legal use, some types are used as anesthetic and others can be found in over-the-counter (OTC) cold and cough medications.

Dissociative drugs work by blocking signals to the conscious mind from different parts of the brain. Studies suggest that this blockage may occur as the drugs disrupt the actions of glutamate, a chemical in the brain that plays a large role in cognition, emotion and pain perception. This may serve to explain the hallucinations, sensory deprivation and dream-like trances experienced by those who use this class of drug. Some dissociatives have general depressant effects as well, which is why doctors prescribe them to sedate patients who are in pain or to help maintain general anesthesia during an operation.



COMMON HALLUCINOGENS:

- PCP
- Ketamine
- Dextromethorphan

PHYSICAL EFFECTS:

- Cut off or distort brain's perception of the rest of the body's senses (*Dissociate*)
- Increase user's pain threshold (*Anesthetic*)

METHODS OF INGESTION:

- Orally
- Smoked
- Eye Drops
- Transdermal
- Injected
- Insufflation

COMMON SIGNS OF USE:

- Perspiring
- Chemical Odor
- Slurred Speech
- Blank Stare
- Incomplete Verbal Responses
- Repetitive Speech
- Cyclic Behaviors
- Warm to the Touch
- Hallucinations

EFFECTS:

- Confusion
- Non-Communicative
- Possibly Violent
- Sensory Distortions
- Disorientation

OVERDOSE EFFECTS:

- Deep Coma
- Magnification of Cardiac Conditions
- Seizures and Convulsions
- Possible Psychosis
- Respiratory Depression

Drug use problems can be complex and often vary from person to person. It is important to note that the information provided is to be used as a guide only and may not be suitable for your own situation.