

Harm Reduction

- Repeated xylazine use has been known to cause soft tissue wounds in the body, regardless of route of administration. These wounds can be difficult to treat and prone to infection.
- Its effects can increase when taken with other depressants, contributing to complex overdoses.
- Use of naloxone can help reverse effects of the opiate in someone's body, helping them to breathe again. If tranqs and benzos are present, naloxone won't reverse their effects. This means that medical support will likely be needed if these substances are in someone's down.

More Info

- <https://drugs.tripsit.me/parafluorofentanyl>
- <https://substance.uvic.ca/blog/xylazine/>
- <https://nextdistro.org/resources-collection/xylazine-quick-guide>
- <https://nextdistro.org/resources-collection/medetomidine-what-is-it-why-does-it-matter>



Contact Us

Substance Drug Checking

1802 Cook Street

Victoria, BC

Monday - Friday

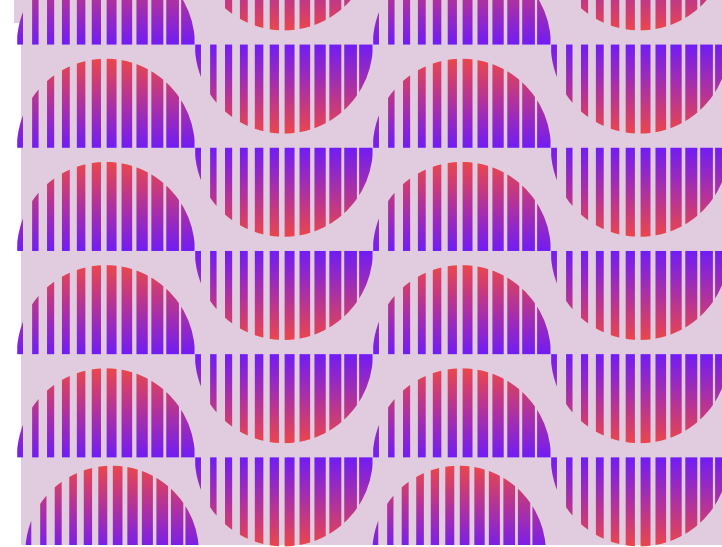
12PM - 7PM

Call/Text: 250-415-7637

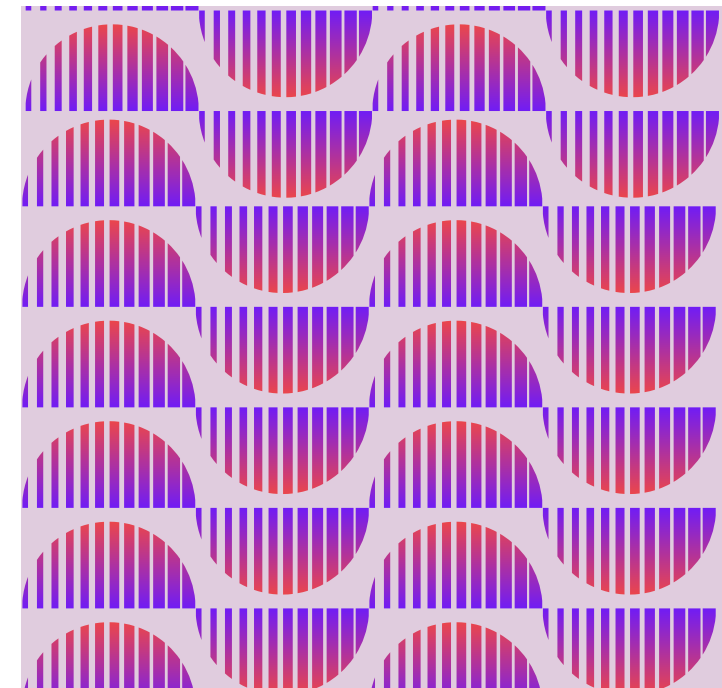
Website: substance.uvic.ca

Facebook: @SubstanceUVic

Instagram: @drugcheckingvi



TRANQ
Xylazine +
Medetomidine
(TRANQ DOPE)



What are they?

Xylazine and medetomidine are both tranquilizers used in veterinary medicine. Xylazine and medetomidine are not approved for human use, however an analogue of medetomidine called dexmedetomidine is approved for pre-surgery sedation in humans.

Medetomidine is also used as an anti-fouling additive to marine paint.

How do they work?

Xylazine and medetomidine are both non-opioid drugs that act as central nervous system depressants with effects of deep sedation, muscle relaxation, and analgesia. There isn't much information on the effects of these substances on humans, but in veterinary situations they are considered safe and effective. In the context of down, there is even less information on how they work.

Dosage + Duration

Because xylazine and medetomidine are not approved for use in humans, only veterinary information exist on the dosage of these substances. An analogue of medetomidine however, called dexmedetomidine, is approved for clinical use in humans. The effects of medetomidine/ dexmedetomidine last for approximately 30 to 60 minutes and up to 90 minutes. The effects can last for several hours when mixed with fentanyl and benzos.

Effects

Effects may include euphoria, sedation, nodding off, physical and emotional pain relief, tranquility, reduced anxiety, and calmness. Dehydration, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, fear, and delusions are some negative effects. Slowed breathing can occur, sometimes leading to overdose. Medetomidine differs from xylazine in that it can cause hallucinations, muscle twitches, and can turn skin different colours.

What are we finding?

We typically find animal tranquilizers in opioid-down samples. There have been a few instances of xylazine being found in pressed pills expected to be benzos.

Xylazine and medetomidine are both sedatives. When used alongside opioids and/or benzos, there is a bigger possibility of complicated overdoses.

Because medetomidine is significantly more potent than xylazine (up to 200x), the difference between finding 1% and 5% in a sample can make a huge difference even if someone has a tolerance to opiates like fentanyl. It is fairly common to find a tranq (xylazine or medetomidine) along with a benzo in down samples these days.