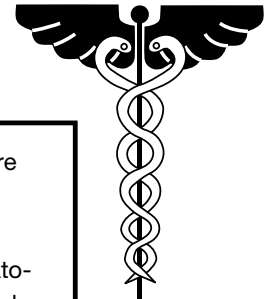




DOWNERS/BARBITURATES



Facts About Drugs

WHAT THEY ARE

Names: barbiturates, barbs, downers, goof-balls, Amytal (amobarbital), Butisol (butabarbital), Nembutal (pentobarbital), Luminal (phenobarbital), Seconal (secobarbital), methaqualone (ludes, 714s)

Type: sedative, hypnotic

Forms: white, bitter tasting powders soluble in water

Combinations: with amobarbital and secobarbital, "Tuinal" with butalbital, ASA (Aspirin), and caffeine, "Fiorinal" (with codeine, "Fiorinal C") with weak street heroin and methamphetamine

Usage: swallowed as tablet, capsule or liquid solution; inserted as rectal suppository; injected into bloodstream (mainlining) or muscle, or under skin (skin popping)

Legal Status: legal as manufactured and prescribed by license for clinical use

Other Forms: similar acting nonbarbiturate downers once sold as Quaalude or Mandrox are no longer manufactured in America

WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE

relaxation, peacefulness, sleepiness, pleasurable intoxication, dizziness, inactivity, withdrawal, interrupted thought processes, mood swing, excitement, increased pain, hostility, depression, anxiety, confusion, changed vision, increased sex drive, intense emotions, hangover, loss of inhibitions

WHAT THEY DO

To Your Mind: depress central nervous system

To Your Body: progressive decline in blood pressure, heart rate and breathing; nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain; alternate pupil constriction and dilation; loss of

reflex response; low body temperature and blood temperature; weak pulse

Special Characteristics: Effects cause ever-increasing depression of respiratory control centers of the brain. Medical application is based on the durations of action of the many and various barbiturates: ultra-short, short and intermediate, long acting. Tolerance leads to increased doses, risk of life-threatening complications and severe withdrawal symptoms.

HOW THEY CAN HURT YOU

- slurred speech, limited motor coordination
- anxiety, restlessness and depression
- psychotic episodes
- dependence on drug
- loss of consciousness, coma
- Death can come from stopped breathing, suicide, combination with other CNS depressants (such as alcohol) and severe withdrawal reactions.

WHEN TO GET HELP

- Do you use downers regularly?
- Do you think about how and when you're going to use them again?
- Is your work or school performance affected?
- Are you having problems with family and friends?
- Are you spending more on drugs than you can afford?
- Do you use other drugs in addition to barbiturates?

FACT: Barbiturates are among the most dangerous, life-threatening drugs.