

Drug Information

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Information

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What is heroin?

Heroin is a depressant drug, which means it slows down the messages travelling between your brain and body. Heroin belongs to a group of drugs known as opiates that are from the opium poppy.¹

Heroin comes in different forms, including: Fine white powder Coarse off-white granules Tiny pieces of light brown 'rock'¹ Other names

Smack, gear, hammer, the dragon, H, dope, junk, harry, horse, black tar, white dynamite, homebake, china white, Chinese H, poison, Dr Harry¹ How is it used?

Heroin is usually injected into a vein, but it's also smoked ('chasing the dragon'), and added to cigarettes and cannabis. The effects are usually felt straight away. The effects take around 10 to 15 minutes if snorted.² Effects of heroin

There is no safe level of drug use. Use of any drug always carries some risk. It's important to be careful when taking any type of drug.

Heroin affects everyone differently, based on: The person's size, weight and health Whether the person is used to taking it Whether other drugs are taken around the same time The amount taken The strength of the drug (it varies from batch to batch)

You will experience the below effects, which will last for 3 to 5 hours: Intense pleasure and pain relief Relaxation, drowsiness and clumsiness Confusion Slurred and slow speech Slow breathing and heartbeat Dry mouth Tiny pupils Reduced appetite and vomiting Decreased sex drive^{1,2}

Injecting heroin and sharing needles may also cause: Tetanus Hepatitis B Hepatitis C HIV and AIDS^{1,2}