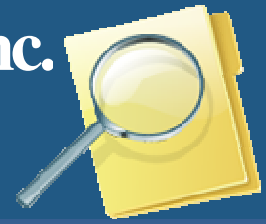


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“ There are few pains so grievous as to have seen, divined, or experienced how an exceptional man has missed his way and deteriorated. .”

- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Methadone.....What is it? Why I don't like it.

Methadone hydrochloride. Primarily in tablet or liquid. This is a synthetic narcotic analgesic and is a Schedule II controlled substance. Available by prescription.

Drug Class: Narcotic analgesic. Prescribed for: moderate to severe pain. Used in detoxification treatment of opioid dependence and maintenance in narcotic addiction. Compared to morphine, methadone has a *much longer duration of action*. Recreationally methadone is abused for its sedative and analgesic effects.

Effects

Psychological: Drowsiness, sedation, dizziness, lightheadedness, mood swings (euphoria to dysphoria), depressed reflexes, altered sensory perception, stupor, and coma. *Physiological:* Strong analgesia, headache, dry mouth, facial flushing nausea, constipation, respiratory depression, muscle flaccidity, pupil constriction, and decreased heart rate.

Duration of Effects

IMPORTANT POINT: Following single oral doses effects may last 6-8 hours, increasing to 22-48 hours in cases of chronic administration.

Drug Interactions: Additive Central Nervous System (CNS) depressive effects with concurrent use of sedatives, hypnotics, tranquilizers, other narcotic

analgesics, tricyclic antidepressants, alcohol and other CNS depressant drugs resulting in *exaggerated* respiratory depression and sedation.

IMPORTANT POINT: *Methadone can potentiate the deleterious effects of alcohol.*

Panel's Assessment of Driving Risks:

Moderate to severely impairing in naïve or non tolerant individuals, causing dose-dependent reductions in reaction time, visual acuity and information processing. Significant psychomotor impairment is not expected in tolerant individuals. [Meaning individuals who have taken methadone for a long period of time]. Driving ability and driving fitness is often limited because of consumption of *additional* psychotropic substances and psychopathological findings.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration/Drugs and Human Performance Fact Sheets

Performing Organization: Washington State Patrol Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau/April 2004.

Why I don't like this drug for chronic pain? All the reasons above but particularly because the metabolite of methadone stays in the tissue long after the analgesic effects of the medication have "worn off".....combine this situation with alcohol [and other sedatives] and death can occur. Yes, this drug is inexpensive - but methadone can be deadly.

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