

How Cocaine Gets Into The Body

There are four primary methods of ingesting cocaine. These are four ways are as follows:

- 1."Snorting" - absorbing cocaine through the mucous membranes of the nose.
- 2..Injecting - users mix cocaine powder with water and use a syringe to inject the cocaine solution intravenously.
3. Freebasing - Cocaine hydrochloride is converted to a "freebase" which can then be smoked.
4. Crack Cocaine - Cocaine hydrochloride is mixed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and other ingredients, causing cocaine to solidify into pellets or "rocks". The crack is then smoked in glass pipes.

How do I Know If I Have A Problem With Cocaine?

- More frequent Use
- Needing more and more to get the same effect
- If you find it's hard to be happy without it
- Unpredictable behavior

- Making new friends who do the drug and neglecting your old friends
- Spending more money than you have on it

Why Is It So Addictive?

Cocaine is addictive because as use continues, tolerance often develops against the drug. This means that higher doses are more frequent use of the drug are required for the brain to get the same level of pleasure.

Treatment

One of NIDA's top research priorities is to find a medication to block or greatly reduce the effects of cocaine. They want this medication to be used as part of the treatment program. NIDA is also looking at medications that help with the sever cravings that people in treatment for cocaine addiction often have.



Cocaine Addiction



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All About Cocaine

The Long Term Effects

- Sleep Disorders
- Chapped Nostrils
- Mood Swings
- Hallucinations
- Eating Disorders
- Weight Loss
- Paranoia

Cocaine Use Can Cause Medical Complications

There are enormous medical complications associated with cocaine use. Some of the most frequent cocaine complications are cardiovascular effects, including disturbances in heart rhythm and heart attacks; such respiratory effects as chest pain and respiratory failure; neurological effects, including strokes, seizure and headaches; gastrointestinal complications, including abdominal pain and nausea.



The Short Term Effects

Cocaine's effects appear almost immediately after a single cocaine dose and disappear within a few minutes or hours. Taken in small cocaine amounts (up to 100 mg), cocaine usually makes the user feel euphoric, energetic, talkative and mentally alert, especially to the sensations of sight, sound, and touch. It can also temporarily decrease the need for food and sleep. Some users find that the cocaine helps them to perform simple physical and intellectual tasks more quickly, while others can experience the opposite effect.

- Increased energy
- Decreased appetite
- Mental alertness
- Increased heart rate
- Increased blood pressure
- Constricted blood vessels
- Increased temperature
- Dilated pupils

The duration of cocaine's immediate euphoric effects depends upon the route of administration of the cocaine. The faster the absorption, the more intense the high. Also, the faster the absorption, the shorter the duration of action. The cocaine high from snorting is relatively slow in onset, and may last 15 to 30 minutes, while that from smoking may last 5 to 10 minutes.

Cocaine Addiction Physical Effect?

- Changes in blood pressure, heart rates, and breathing rates
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Anxiety
- Convulsions
- Insomnia
- Loss of appetite leading to malnutrition and weight loss
- Cold sweats
- Swelling and bleeding of mucous membranes
- Restlessness and anxiety
- Damage to nasal cavities
- Damage to lungs
- Possible heart attacks, strokes or convulsions

