

BARBITURATES



WHAT ARE BARBITURATES?

- *Barbiturates are prescription sedatives or tranquilizers.*
- *Barbiturates are multi-colored pills and tablets and are classified as Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants that cause drowsiness.*
- *Barbiturates are more commonly known as “DOWNERS”.*



STREET NAMES



Barbiturates are identified on the street by the color of the pill and can be called:

- ♂ Barbs*
- ♂ Downers*
- ♂ Sleepers*
- ♂ Stumblers*
- ♂ Rainbows*

- ♂ Blue Heavens*
- ♂ Yellow Jackets*
- ♂ Red Devils*
- ♂ Tootsies*
- ♂ Red Dolls*

HISTORY of BARBITURATES

- ***1863 - Barbiturates were developed by Adolph von Bayer, famous for developing aspirin, and heroin.***
- ***1903 – Barbiturates were first used in medical practices. Barbital (barbitone), was used as a sedative for the chronically nervous.***



HISTORY of BARBITURATES (cont)

Since 1903:

- ***Over 2,000 barbiturates have been manufactured using Bayer's original formula.***
- ***So widely used at first that they were nicknamed "wonder drugs".***
- ***Use has been drastically reduced due to:***
 - ***The introduction of sedative drugs prescribed to reduce anxiety such as Valium and Xanax.***
 - ***The dangerous side effects that are associated with barbiturate use.***



HOW ARE THEY TAKEN?

Barbiturates can be ingested in a variety of ways:

- 1) Orally – In a pill or liquid form.***
- 2) Intravenously – Injected with the use of a hypodermic needle:***
 - Injected into the bloodstream or muscle (MAINLINING)***
 - Injected under the skin (SKIN POPPING)***
- 3) Inserted into the body via suppository.***



WHY ARE THEY USED?

- **Barbiturates are most often consumed to get “high”.**
- **Barbiturates are used by drug users to treat the unpleasant effects of other drugs such as:**
 - **Cocaine**
 - **Methamphetamine**
 - **Ecstasy**
- **Barbiturates are prescribed to treat:**
 - **Anxiety**
 - **Depression**
 - **Epilepsy**
 - **Insomnia**
 - **Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Withdrawal**



PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- » **Sleepiness**
- » **Dizziness**
- » **Nausea**
- » **Slurred Speech**
- » **Impaired Memory**
- » **Impaired Judgment**
- » **Vertigo**
- » **Impotence**

- » *Lack of Motivation*
- » *Reduced Sex Drive*
- » *Irregular Menstruation*
- » *Breathing Disorders*
- » *Decreased Blood Pressure*
- » *Coma*
- » *Death*

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- ***Mild Euphoria***
- ***Disinhibition***
- ***Anxiety Relief***
- ***Sleepiness***
- ***Memory Impairment***
- ***Loss of Coordination***
- ***Increased Irritability***
- ***Severe Paranoia***
- ***Suicidal Thoughts***

BARBITURATE TESTING

- ***Barbiturates can be detected in urine up to 2-3 days after ingestion.***



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[Exam Part Three](#)

