

[Ketamine]

Dissociative Aneasthetic

Slang/Street names for KETAMINE:

K, VITAMIN K, KET, SPECIAL K, KIT KAT, VIT K, KELLER, KEL LYS DAY, GREEN, BL IND SQUID, CAT VAL IUM, PURPLE, SPECIAL LA COKE, SUPER C AND SUPER ACID, HONEY OIL, JET.



Ketamine comes in white or off white powder form or colourless, odourless liquid form and therefore can be pressed into tablets, smoked, snorted, mixed into beverages or injected intravenously or into the muscles.(1)

It is a **dissociative anaesthetic** which means that the user tends to feel like he or she is leaving their body, the feeling associated with near death experiences. The drug also causes hallucinations and reduces pain. Ketamine has the ability to leave the user in an amnesic state and therefore has gained notoriety as a date rape drug as the victim often cannot remember events.

Special K is a derivative of and has a similar impact to the very dangerous drug called (PCP) 'Phencyclidine' (a.k.a. Angel Dust on the streets) though it's impact has about half the duration of PCP and it doesn't produce as scary awake up, as when someone emerges from the Ketamine induced coma—the "K-Hole" as it can often be referred to.

Users of Ketamine have coined several terms to describe the different states that are reached by this drug. The immediate effects of Ketamine last between 4-6 hrs but it does not fully wear off for anywhere between 24 -48 hrs. In chronic users it may take anywhere up to two years to wear off completely.(2)

Several slangy terms have been used to describe the state reached when under the influence of Special K. 'Khole', going to 'K-land', 'baby food' and 'God' are often used to describe the frightening comatose state that a victim may find themselves in. When in this state it is virtually impossible for one to fight off a sexual assault.



Ketamine is usually a colourless and odourless liquid with a bitter taste. It can be dehydrated and made into powder form. It is now commonly known as a party/date-rape drug but is also used in the medical profession to anaesthetise children but **mainly as an animal anaesthetic.**



HOW IT MESSES YOU UP... SHORT TERM :

Ketamine makes the user very vulnerable to sexual assault as it can render the user incapacitated or comatose; in fact Ketamine has been used by sexual predators on their victims.(3)

Ketamine's anesthetic properties causes the user to feel no pain and therefore any serious damage to the body can go unnoticed until the effects of the drug have worn off. Ketamine acts within 10-20 minutes of ingestion. Some of the immediate effects are: **Numbness, loss of co-ordination, feeling invulnerable, muscle rigidity, aggressive/violent behavior (4) , nausea and vomiting, sweating, blurred vision, constricted pupils, hallucinations and distorted sensory processing, including visual, auditory, bodily, time and space perception, anxiety and panic, slurred speech, increased heart rate, confusion and erratic thought patterns.**(5)

As with most drugs the higher the dosage the more likelihood of greater damage including death by overdose.

Users tend to develop tolerance fairly quickly which means that people need a lot more of it to get the desired impact – up to 760% increase in quantities of use since they started – that's getting expensive!

A common statement of long term users is 'I use K without stopping until it's all gone!'



HOW IT MESSES YOU UP... LONG TERM :

Not much is known about long term effects other than flashbacks have been known to occur up to a year after use; other effects are tolerance and psychological dependence (6) and there have been some links to personality changes and depression (7) as well as "long term memory and cognitive difficulties" (8) Surveyed users of Ketamine conveyed concerns about long time effects which included **a) impaired memory and cognitive function b) declines in mental health** – including paranoia, apathy, anhedonia (inability to experience pleasure)... declines in physical health, including cystitis and bladder problems, 'Kcramps' (severe gastric pain) and headaches. People who no longer used Ketamine tended to focus on mental health concerns, especially schizophrenia-like symptoms, hallucinations and cognitive disorganisation.(9)



UNUSUAL FACTS :

- When injecting intramuscularly there is the risk of losing control even before the injection is completed. (10)
- Once Ketamine use is stopped it can take up to two years for the effects to completely disappear in chronic users.(11)
- 'K-Hole' is the slang term used to refer to a state that is reached when the user's body is literally paralyzed and the mind disengages from the body. It is sometimes referred to as an out of body experience. It leaves the user extremely vulnerable and confused.
- Brain cell damage was observed in a recent study on rats injected with Ketamine.(12)
- Almost 90% of rapes in the US are perpetrated by a person known to the victim! (13)
- In the 'K-hole' peoples perception is severely altered and the following statements are quite common ... 'My thoughts don't belong to me' and 'I worry people are watching me.'



myths

- Ketamine is perfectly safe to use because it is a naturally occurring chemical and is organic like mushrooms and marijuana — **FALSE!** Ketamine is a synthetic compound manufactured by chemists and administered by doctors to anaesthetise humans and animals. It is not safe to be administered by non medical personnel. (15)
- If someone falls asleep at a party after using 'Special K' it's best to just let them sleep it off in a corner somewhere — **FALSE!** Ketamine causes paralysis and loss of consciousness as it is an anaesthetic; as a result the person left unattended is at serious risk as they cannot simply wake up in the event of an emergency.



OTHER DATA THAT'S RELEVANT :





- Whilst Ketamine is used for humans it is most often used on animals.(16)
- Ketamine was first synthesized in 1962 by Calving Stevens in the Parke Davis Lab in Detroit and was originally known as CI581 (17) and is still referred to as such in medical terms when used for anaesthetic purposes.(18)
- Ketamine is particularly dangerous when mixed with other drugs such as alcohol which magnifies the downer effect of the drug.
- Experiences related to Ketamine include 'K-hole', 'K-land', 'Baby Food' and 'God'. (19)

Don't leave your drink



HOW IT'S INTRODUCED INTO THE BODY :

(The skull indicates the most used methods of ingestion of the drug described in this Fact Sheet)

- Injected/Intravenously 
- Injected/Intramuscularly 
- Sniffed/Snorted (powder) 
- Inhaled (vapour)
- Smoked
- Swallowed 
- Eaten
- Absorbed through skin





FIRST AID :

A **Ketamine overdose** is a medical emergency and some will die without medical intervention. If you suspect someone has overdosed, check to see if they are breathing, put them on their side and gently tilt their head back to open their wind-pipe.

Call an ambulance immediately (dial 000) and follow the operator's instructions.

The patient should be made as comfortable as possible, preferably by a qualified medical or first aid person, until paramedics arrive. If breathing stops give mouth to mouth resuscitation. If there is no pulse give CPR. (14)

BEST AID :

never touch it



WHERE TO GET HELP : medical and other

- DirectLine Alcohol and Drug Counselling and Referral Line 1800 888 236
- Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) House 93473066
- Live Free Victoria 03 58523777



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