

HEPATITIS AND HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

XYLAZINE WOUND CARE & RESPONSE



Mail-order Naloxone:
nmharmreduction.org

Find In-person Harm
Reduction Sites:
nmhivguide.org

Xylazine is a non-opioid, sedative and tranquilizer most often used in veterinary medicine and is not approved for use in humans. If someone has been using a substance known to have contained fentanyl and is experiencing unexplained wounds, it may be related to xylazine.

- Xylazine can cause flesh wounds that can appear as burns, ulcers, or scrapes.
- Xylazine wounds can develop at and away from injection sites, unlike abscesses.
- Xylazine wounds can still develop when using alternative routes of administration like inhaling vapors (“smoking”) or snorting.

Xylazine wounds can be treated and healed if caught early. If left untreated, the flesh can become necrotic tissue and cause deep, painful wounds that can lead to additional health complications.

Xylazine is most often found in combination with an opioid and has not been found in cannabis, meth, or cocaine, unless that substance has been adulterated with fentanyl.

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

- Inability to move a joint or decreased range of motion at site of wound
- Exposed bone and/or tendon
- Symptoms of systemic infection
- Signs and symptoms of local infection
 - Increasing pain, odor, drainage, redness, etc.

WOUND CARE BASICS

Keep Clean

- With soap and water

Keep Moisturized

- With antibacterial ointment or Vaseline

Keep Covered

- With clean bandages or Xeroform dressing

Repeat this process every 1-2 days until healed. Seek medical attention if the wound gets worse.

OVERDOSE RESPONSE

1. If there is a suspected xylazine involved overdose, use naloxone first to respond to the opioid overdose and call 911. Wait 1-2 minutes, and if breathing has not resumed, use a second dose.
2. If the person begins breathing again, monitor them or put in recovery position; they may still be sedated from the xylazine.
3. If the person does not begin breathing again, start rescue breathing until emergency services arrive.