

Medetomidine

Overview & Response

Medetomidine is a sedative that is stronger than xylazine (“tranq”). Like xylazine, it is not an opioid and NOT intended for human use.

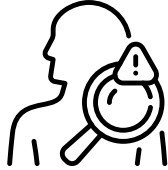


Learn More
[NMHarmReduction.org](https://nmharmreduction.org)



Effects of Medetomidine

- Long lasting, heavy sedation
- Low blood pressure
- Low heart rate
- Slowed breathing
- Lack of coordination
- Severe withdrawal symptoms



Medetomidine Withdrawal

Withdrawal can be very serious and may need to be treated in a medical setting, especially if there is chest pain or if symptoms increase in severity.

- Nausea and vomiting
- Dangerously high blood pressure
- Fast heart rate
- Excessive sweating
- Anxiety and agitation

Tips for Safer Use



Have a trusted person nearby in case of emergency or call Never Use Alone 1-877-696-1996.



Administer naloxone if an overdose is suspected. Medetomidine is almost always found with fentanyl.



Access free and confidential drug checking services to help identify potential adulterants. Access safer use and overdose prevention supplies.



The person may not wake up due to the sedative nature of medetomidine.

- If they are not breathing after being given naloxone, begin administering rescue breaths.
- If they are breathing but sedated, put them into recovery position and monitor.

Where It's Been Found



Medetomidine was first identified in New Mexico in 2024. Since then, it has been found increasingly in fentanyl samples throughout the state. The amount of medetomidine varies across samples. It has been found in both fentanyl pill and powder samples. It has **not** been found alone or in any other samples not expected to be an opioid (i.e. meth or cocaine).