

Cocaine Use



Short-term effects

- Effects appear immediately after first dose.
- Makes the user feel euphoric, energetic, talkative, mentally alert and hypersensitive to sight, sound and touch.
- Constricted blood vessels.
- Dilated pupils.
- Increased body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.
- Restlessness, anxiety, irritability, panic and paranoia.
- Neurological effects including headaches, seizures, strokes and coma
- Gastrointestinal complications, including abdominal pain and nausea
- Large amounts of cocaine use can lead to bizarre, erratic and violent behavior.

What is cocaine?

- A powerfully addictive stimulant drug.
- A fine white, crystalline powder, also known as Coke, C, Snow, Powder or Blow.
- A schedule II drug.
- It has two chemical forms: the water-soluble hydrochloride salt and the water insoluble cocaine base.



Long-term effects...

- Brain becomes less sensitive to natural reinforcers.
- Withdrawal when cocaine not in use (increased displeasure and negative moods).
- Withdrawal leading to pursuit of the drug instead of food, relationships or other natural rewards.
- Tolerance leading to higher doses more frequently.

- Damages organs in the body.
- Increased risk of stroke.
- Intracerebral hemorrhaging and balloon like bulges in the walls of cerebral blood vessels.
- Movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease.
- Inability to sustain attention.
- Impairment of: memory, performing motor tasks, impulse inhibition

Say No!



Cocaine and HIV

- Cocaine use can lower inhibitions and lead to risky sexual behavior and unprotected sex.
- Trading sex for drugs and needle sharing also increase the user's chance of contracting HIV

How is it used?

- Users inject or snort the hydrochloride salt, which is a powder.

Cocaine Addiction Treatment in Antigua and Barbuda

- In Antigua and Barbuda, the Crossroads Centre is the main rehabilitation facility for alcohol and other illicit substance dependence.
- Contact the Crossroads Centre at 1 268 562 0035, or visit the website at www.crossroadsantigua.org

