

Ketamine

Green, K, special K, super K.

What is Ketamine?

Ketamine is a powerful anaesthetic drug which has been used for operations on humans and animals.

In 1992 it found its way on to the club and rave scene in the UK when people took it thinking they were buying ecstasy. It has been likened to the drug PCP.

Ketamine comes in a variety of forms, ranging from its liquid pharmaceutical state, for injecting, through to pill to be taken orally. Powders are sniffed up the nose or sometimes smoked. The level of use is not well known however. Anecdotal evidence suggests the drug is chiefly found at hard-core dance clubs/events and squat-parties, where hallucinogens and stimulants are a favourite among goers. The drug is thought to be on the increase among college students, who prefer it because it is cheap and often easy to get from local medical sources.



The price of Ketamine varies from £10 to £20 a gram depending on who it is bought from and where.

The law

As of January 1st 2006 Ketamine is a class C Drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Effects/risks

Ketamine has pain killing effects but also alters perception. People who use it commonly say they feel detached from themselves and others around them. The drug is described as dose specific. This means the amount taken will strongly determine the extent and type of effect the drug will have. At low doses (roughly 100mg), the user will feel euphoric and experience rushes or waves of energy. At higher doses (200mg and over) the user will often experience hallucinations, similar to LSD, and the typical out-of-of-body or detached experience. This is often followed by numbness, often in the limbs, and strange muscle movements. Users may also feel sick or throw up - dangerous at high doses if the user is unconscious or very disorientated and can choke on their vomit. Accidents from lack of co-ordination may be more likely and large doses could lead to loss of consciousness. It may be difficult to know how strong a dose is being taken and what else is mixed in with it.

In general, literature on the consequences of long-term Ketamine use is sparse, but reports suggest that flashbacks, memory, attention and vision impairment may result from frequent and prolonged use. Tolerance develops quickly, requiring more of the drug to achieve the same repeated high. Stimulant-like weight loss and loss of appetite may occur during periods of heavy use, as well as psychological dependence, psychosis and gradual loss of contact with the real world.

Ketamine use can also be particularly dangerous if used at the same time as depressant drugs such as alcohol, barbiturates, heroin or tranquillisers as it can shut the body down to such an effect that the lungs or heart stop functioning. However there are few known cases of death from Ketamine use in the UK.

Updated 2006

Other Sources of information

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Local organisations that offer Assessment & Treatment options for people with addictions:</p> <p>EDAS – Mental Health and Alcohol & Substance Misuse Support in Poole Tel 01202 735777 hello@edasuk.org www.edasuk.org</p> <p>EDAS/REACH YP – Free and confidential drug and alcohol service for under 25s who live in the Borough of Poole and County of Dorset Tel 0800 0434656 www.edasuk.org/yp</p> <p>WE ARE WITH YOU Tel 01202558855 www.wearewithyou.org.uk</p> <p>EDP Tel 01305 571264 info@edp.org.uk</p> | | <p>National organisations that offer treatment, advice, information & support for people with addictions:</p> <p>ALCOHOL CHANGE Tel 020 3907 8480 www.alcoholchange.org.uk</p> <p>FRANK Tel 0300 1236600 Text 82111 www.talktofrank.com</p> |
|--|--|--|

Contact us: Helpline 01202 735777 (Weekdays 8:30am to 4:00pm, 24-hour answer phone)

Email: hello@edasuk.org

EDAS Head Office - 54A Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole BH14 9BN

Statement

Our information and research is designed to help you make informed choices about the services that we provide. From time to time, for illustrative purposes, we may make reference to commonly available products (such as relaxation CDs and popular self-help books). We do not endorse or advertise the use of any specific product.

Disclaimer:

While we make every effort to use up-to-date and reliable sources, we cannot accept liability for errors in the sources that we use and also cannot guarantee to find all the information relevant to your enquiry or request. All responsibility for interpretation of and action upon that information rests with you. This information and advice is offered on the understanding that if you intend to support your treatment with complementary or alternative approaches then it is advisable to consult your GP to ensure that they have a complete understanding of your situation and the complementary or alternative approach that you are considering.

ID: ED-DS-21112011v2

Literature search completed: Drugscope - October

2012 Sheet published: October 2012

Review Date: October 2013

