

Have you heard of MEDETOMIDINE?

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What is it?

Medetomidine, or “rhino tranq,” is a veterinary sedative that is stronger than xylazine (“tranq”).

Where is it?

Medetomidine has been found in syringe residue in Kentucky counties. **It is often mixed in with other drugs.**

What does it do?

Medetomidine can cause deep sleep, low blood pressure, low heart rate, and overdose that can cause death.

What do you need to know?

In addition to overdose, medetomidine withdrawal can start quickly, **even after first use**, and can also cause death.



Someone won't wake up or may be overdosing? Call 911 and give naloxone (Narcan®)

Naloxone won't treat medetomidine overdose, but it can help if fentanyl or other opioids are involved.



Bring this card to the hospital with you if you think
you're experiencing medetomidine withdrawal.

ASAM Guidelines for Healthcare Providers

Medetomidine Withdrawal Syndrome

Symptoms may start **1-2 hours** after last use

- Nausea and vomiting
- Tremor and myoclonic jerks
- Anxiety
- Diaphoresis
- Sinus tachycardia (>120 bpm)
- Hypertension (SBP>170mmHg; DBP>100mmHg)
- Encephalopathy or delirium in severe cases
- Minimal response to symptomatic therapies

When to Escalate Care

- Severe hypertension (SBP $\geq$ 180 or DBP $\geq$ 120)
- Intractable nausea and vomiting
- Waxing and waning alertness or hypoactive delirium
- Severe symptoms that do not improve within 4-6 hours of initiating treatment

PRIMARY MANAGEMENT

Administer naloxone to restore breathing.

The goal of naloxone administration is the restoration of respiratory effort. Medetomidine may keep a person sedated even after successful opioid reversal.

Administration of dexmedetomidine may be needed for severe vomiting.

The primary concern is tachycardia and hypertension. Severe vomiting may prevent oral medication used to control these symptoms.

Available Guidance in ASAM Resources

(Scan QR code for most up-to-date guidance)

- Identification of exposure and withdrawal symptoms
- Overdose Management
- Opioid Withdrawal Management
- Symptom Management

