Dexedrine is also known as Dextroamphetamine and it is a stimulant or “upper”. It is used to treat attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy (which is a sleep disorder). The use of Dexedrine for these problems should be under the direct supervision of a physician.

**So how does it work?**

It blocks the reuptake of dopamine and norepinephrine (chemicals produced by the body), especially in the central nervous system. It can also cause these substances to become elevated in the body as well. Use of Dexedrine may result in exhilaration/euphoria initially, increased energy and increased alertness along with increased heart rate, increased blood pressure and irregular heart beats. Withdrawal may result in excessive fatigue, depression and sleep disturbances.

**What happens when Dexedrine is mixed with....**

**Alcohol?**
When mixed with alcohol, increased central nervous system depression may occur.

**Marijuana?**
When mixed with marijuana, increased central nervous system depression may occur.

**Is there a chance this substance could contain contaminants if it is obtained “on the street”? If so, what are the effects of these contaminants?**

This medication is sold by prescription in pharmacies. If this agent is purchased from the pharmacy, the agent should not contain contaminants. Dexedrine may be obtained “on the street”. If it is bought “on the street” it has the potential to contain contaminants or not be the medication it is sold as. If the substance is contaminated, the risk to the consumer will be dependent on the contaminant or substance. Contaminants vary greatly and there is no specific contaminant associated with this agent.

**Short term effects of taking Dexedrine**

**Judgment**
- Use could result in euphoria, nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep, paranoia and hostility which may impair judgment.
- Use of this agent may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.

**Memory**
- Use could result in euphoria, nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep and paranoia which may impair memory. It is believed that use of Dexedrine increases alertness which could improve memory. However, the adverse effects and the effects of the drug wearing off could actually impair memory.

**Health**
- Use of this agent may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
- Use may cause decreased appetite and weight loss.
- In addition, it could result in increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, and irregular heart beats. Dexedrine may cause serious problems, such as heart attack or stroke, and could result in death or serious problems that would decrease quality of life from these problems.
- Use has been associated with seizures as well.
- Use of Dexedrine may result in sudden death.

**Long term effects of taking Dexedrine**

**Judgment**
- Use could result in nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep, paranoia and compulsive use which may impair judgment.

**Memory**
- Use could result in nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep, paranoia and compulsive use which may impair judgment.

**Health**
- Use of this agent may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
- Withdrawal from Dexedrine may result in depression, paranoia, excessive fatigue and significant sleep disturbances.
- Use may increase body temperatures which can be very dangerous and result in hospitalization or sudden death.
- In addition, it could result in increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, and irregular heart beats. Dexedrine may cause serious cardiovascular problems, such as heart attack or stroke, and could result in death or serious problems that would decrease quality of life from these problems.
- Long term use has been associated with numerous psychiatric disorders, such as paranoia, depression, compulsive behaviors of use, etc. The psychiatric disorders may not resolve even after discontinuation of Dexedrine.
- Use could result in sudden death.

For more information contact the Student Health Center at 348.3878

References