Mescaline (also known as buttons, cactus, mesc and peyote) is an illegal hallucinogenic drug that comes from cacti. They produce similar effects to LSD (another name being “acid”). It can be taken orally and also can be injected.

**So how does it work?**
Mescaline binds to receptors in the brain and causes the mind to do strange things. It is still unknown as to why it makes the mind do strange things.

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

**Alcohol?**
Alcohol use has been linked with lowering inhibitions for participation in unusual and unsafe activities.

**Marijuana?**
Marijuana use has been linked with lowering inhibitions for participation in unusual and unsafe activities.

**What if you take Mescaline while you are pregnant?**
Use may increase the risk of a miscarriage.

**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?**
Street forms of mescaline vary in dosage. Taking unknown amounts of mescaline may have detrimental effects on the body and may lead to death.

**Short term effects of taking Mescaline**

**Judgment**
- Mescaline can speed up and slow down the perception of time and movement, change perception of colors, sounds and objects.
- Use could result in euphoria, paranoia, confusion, hallucinations and nervousness.
- Use can make one withdrawn and unable to interact with surrounding social situations.
- Use can induce panic attacks.

**Memory**
- Use of this agent will interfere with social interactions.
- Make one more emotionally sensitive.
- Use may increase the risk of mental health problems and can also have random effects on memory and disorganization of thoughts.

**Health**
- Cardiovascular effects such as; increased heart rate, raised blood pressure and increases body temperature.
- Loss of appetite, sleeplessness and weakness.
- It can induce nausea and vomiting.
- At high doses it can produce convulsions, heart and respiratory failures. Ultimately leading to sudden death.

**Long term effects of taking Mescaline**

**Judgment**
Use can decrease motivation, prolong depression and increase delusions. It can also cause anxiety, a state of panic and psychosis.

**Memory**
“Flashbacks” are associated with the use of mushrooms. A flashback is a spontaneous re-experiencing of part of a hallucinogenic episode and it can be frightening.

**Health**
Tolerance builds up after a period of daily use.

For more information contact the Student Health Center at 348.3878

**References**