Speed (amphetamine) is also known as “crystal meth”, “base”, and “ice”. Speed (amphetamine) is a stimulant or “upper” that speeds up the brain and nervous system to increase energy and alertness, elevate mood, and increase feelings of well-being. Amphetamine may be prescribed by a physician to treat narcolepsy (episodes of uncontrollable sleep), attention deficit disorder (ADD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Most people, however, use speed that is made illegally. Speed is usually made in the form of a white or yellow powder that is snorted or injected. It can also be found in the form of tablets or capsules.

**So how does it work?**

Speed blocks the reuptake of the chemicals dopamine and norepinephrine in the brain leaving more of the chemicals in the synaptic cleft where they can act on receptors. Use of speed may result in 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 Speed is mixed with....**

**Alcohol?**

When mixed with alcohol, speed may be used to wake up in the morning and alcohol may be needed at night to be able to sleep. In addition, increased central nervous system depression may occur, leading to an increased risk of overdose.

**Marijuana?**

When mixed with marijuana, speed may be used to wake up in the morning and marijuana may be needed at night to be able to sleep. In addition, increased central nervous system depression may occur, leading to an increased risk of overdose.

**What if you take Speed while you are pregnant?**

- **Pregnancy**
  - Use may result in increased heart rate of both mother and baby. Taking speed during pregnancy may cause the baby to get less oxygen, which can lead to the baby being born too early, miscarriage, and low birth weight.
  - **Breast Feeding**
    - Speed may accumulate in breast milk, causing irritability and disturbed sleep in infants. The long-term effects on infants are unknown.

**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?**

Amphetamines (speed) 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 purported to be in order to make the drug go further. 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 speed.

**Short term effects of taking Speed**

**Judgment**

- At low doses, use may result in euphoria, nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep, and risk-taking behavior.
- At high doses, use may result in paranoia, hostility, aggression, and psychosis (hearing voices, fearing that others want to hurt you).
- Use may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.

**Memory**

- At low doses, use may result in increased alertness which could improve memory. However, the adverse effects and the effects of withdrawal could actually impair memory.

**Health**

- Use may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
- At low doses, use may result in decreased appetite, weight loss, increased heart rate, blood pressure, and respiratory rate, irregular heart beats, dilation of pupils, and seizures.

**Long term effects of taking Speed**

**Judgment**

- At low doses, use may result in euphoria, nervousness, restlessness, inability to sleep, and risk-taking behavior.
- At high doses, use may result in paranoia, hostility, aggression, and psychosis (hearing voices, fearing that others want to hurt you).
- Use may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.

**Memory**

- At low doses, use may result in increased alertness which could improve memory. However, the adverse effects and the effects of withdrawal could actually impair memory.

**Health**

- Use may result in drug dependence and/or addiction.
- At low doses, use may result in decreased appetite, weight loss, increased heart rate, blood pressure, and respiratory rate, irregular heart beats, and seizures.
- Long term use has been associated with numerous psychiatric disorders, such as paranoia, depression, hallucinations, violence, and compulsive behaviors.
- Withdrawal may result in depression, paranoia, excessive fatigue and significant sleep disturbances.