

Medetomidine is causing more severe withdrawal

Drug description & effects

- **Medetomidine** is a veterinary sedative, similar to xylazine (tranq) detected in Philadelphia's drug supply. It is not an opioid.
- As medetomidine has become more common in the drug supply, people who use dope have experienced **more severe** withdrawal symptoms, such as **nausea, excessive sweating, tremors, racing heart** and **confusion**.

Where has it been found?

- Medetomidine was first identified in a Philly dope sample between April 29 and May 1, 2024.
- Since being identified earlier this year, medetomidine has become more common in the overall dope supply.
- It is similar to xylazine, but is stronger and can cause longer-lasting effects.
- At this point, medetomidine has only been confirmed in dope, but people who use other substances should be cautious and use safety measures just in case.

Stay alert and take precautions

- Test strips that detect medetomidine are not widely available at this time. Use other precautions to keep yourself safe.
- Medetomidine is not an opioid, so naloxone (NARCAN®) will not reverse a purely medetomidine overdose. However, because medetomidine is almost always found in combination with opioids, including fentanyl, naloxone (NARCAN®) should still be administered. Get naloxone at substanceusephilly.com/get-supplies.

If you think you are going through medetomidine withdrawal, view the treatment and withdrawal health alert at substanceusephilly.com/alerts and show it to your provider. It is called "Hospitals and behavioral health providers are reporting severe and worsening presentations of withdrawal among people who use drugs (PWUD) in Philadelphia."

Universal precautions



carry Narcan
(naloxone)



start low and
go slow



tell someone
you're using



find treatment

Never Use Alone

English hotline: (877) 696-1996

The Brave App

download in the app store



Find substance use treatment at
substanceusephilly.com/treatment