

MEDETOMIDINE — “RHINO TRANQ”

(meh-deh-TOH-mih-deen)

WHAT IS MEDETOMIDINE?

- It is a **non-opioid tranquilizer** used for sedation in animals
- It is **not** meant for human use
- It has been mostly detected in **unregulated fentanyl** and other opioids
- It is stronger than xylazine (‘tranq’) and not linked to skin infections nor wounds

WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

- Sleepiness/feeling very tired/heavy sedation for a long time
- Blackouts that last longer than opioids
- Slow circulation, low blood pressure and very low or no pulse
- Slowed breathing
- Hallucinations often related to seeing and feeling things that are not there
- Effects can last several hours or longer when taken with other depressants (e.g. fentanyl)
- Higher risk of death when medetomidine is mixed with other drugs

WHAT DO YOU ALSO NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WITHDRAWAL?

- It can start quickly
- It can cause a very fast heart rate and very high blood pressure
- Shaking or twitching, heavy sweating can occur
- You can go in and out of responding, have anxiety and restlessness

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675 x 73037

TTY 1-866-512-6228

york.ca/opioids

HOW TO BE SAFER

If you think medetomidine is in your drugs:

- If available, test your drugs with a test strip and/or a drug checking service before using
- Ask around to see how drugs circulating are making people feel
- Use in a place where you feel safe
- Do a small test dose first
- Carry naloxone as medetomidine is nearly always found with opioids
- Try to use when others are around and “spot” for each other
- If you must use alone, call someone and have them stay on the phone while using or call The National Overdose Response Service at 1-888-688-NORS (6677)



GET MEDICAL CARE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR:

- Severe withdrawal symptoms
- Incidents of going in and out of responding
- Ongoing vomiting
- Chest pain, other circulation and breathing issues