

Amphetamines Intoxication Assessment

Amphetamines are central nervous system (CNS) stimulants that may be prescribed to treat narcolepsy, hyperactivity disorders in children, and certain cases of obesity (refer to the Picmonic "CNS Stimulants Indications"). The use of amphetamines causes feelings of euphoria, paranoia, and anxiety. Side effects of amphetamines abuse include mydriasis, hypertension, and tachycardia (refer to the Picmonic "CNS Stimulants Side Effects"). Excessive use may cause insomnia, hypertension, anorexia, and seizures. Compared with abuse of other substances, amphetamines are more likely to induce feelings of anxiety and paranoia.



PLAY PICMONIC

Euphoria

U-flowers

The use of amphetamines leads to feelings of euphoria, increased energy, and sharpened mental alertness. CNS stimulants decrease fatigue and increase feelings of greater mental agility and muscular power. Snorting or oral ingestion of amphetamines causes a slower onset of euphoria while smoking or intravenous injection quickly leads to euphoria.

Insomnia

Taped-awake-insomniac

CNS stimulation caused by amphetamines may cause prolonged alertness leading to insomnia. The individual may experience difficulty falling asleep due to prolonged wakefulness.

Mydriasis

Meter-eyes

Amphetamines potently release and prevent the reuptake of norepinephrine. Increased levels of norepinephrine binds to adrenergic receptors and causes pupillary dilation or mydriasis.

Diaphoresis

Sweaty-sweatband

Amphetamines may cause a rise in body temperature related to increased motor activity. Amphetamines overdose may lead to hyperthermia. Diaphoresis or profuse sweating may be present.

Hypertension

Hiker-BP

Amphetamines may increase systolic and diastolic blood pressure resulting in hypertension.

Tachycardia

Tac-heart-card

Excessive CNS stimulation caused by amphetamines abuse leads to tachycardia, or palpitations. Cardiac arrhythmias may also occur.

Paranoia

Pear-nude

Chronic use of amphetamines may result in paranoia and hypervigilance. Increased dopamine related to amphetamine abuse may cause hallucinations and misperceptions of reality.

Anxiety

Anxiety-bag

Amphetamine abuse overstimulates the central nervous system and leads to feelings of anxiety and restlessness.

Anorexia

Anorexic-rex

CNS stimulation caused by amphetamines abuse causes anorexia. The individual may experience decreased appetite leading to weight loss and malnutrition.

Seizures

Caesar

Amphetamine overdose may induce seizures. Benzodiazepines such as lorazepam may be administered to treat seizures.