Amphetamine Abuse

Meth and other amphetamines over-stimulate the nervous system. This gives you a false feeling of power and confidence. Amphetamines once came in the form of diet pills. This is no longer considered a valid reason to use the drug. More often they are bought as the illegal drug, methamphetamine. It is also known as crank, crystal, speed, or ice. Meth and similar drugs can cause a variety of problems. They can cause severe physical and psychological problems.

SYMPTOMS

- Reduced appetite.
- Dry mouth.
- Erectile dysfunction.
- Headache.
- Fever and sweating.
- Diarrhea or constipation.
- Blurred vision and impaired speech.
- Dizziness, uncontrollable movements or shaking.
- Restlessness.
- Palpitations and irregular heartbeat.
- Anxiety and/or general nervousness.

More long-term problems:

- Convulsions.
- Dry or itchy skin.
- Acne.
- Poor skin color.
- Heart attack.
- Aggression.
- Emotional instability.
- A mental state that mimics serious psychiatric illness.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NEEDLE USE AND INHALING ARE:

- Infection.
- Vein damage.
- Overdose.
- Skin abscesses.
- Hepatitis.
- AIDS.

TREATMENT

There are 2 types:

- Short-term medical treatment. This helps to preserve life and prevent or minimize damage from the problems described above.
- Long-term substance abuse treatment. This helps to achieve recovery from drug abuse or addiction.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

After treatment discharge, it is essential to do the following:

- Follow all instructions from your caregiver very carefully.
- Take all medications as prescribed. If you cannot, contact your caregiver right away.
- Keep all appointments for further evaluation and counseling.
- **Do not** use drugs, alcohol or any other mind and mood altering drugs unless prescribed by your doctor.
- **Do not** operate a motor vehicle or machinery until your caregiver says it is OK.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have a seizure (*convulsions*).
- You become very shaky or tense.
- You become light headed or faint.
- You notice sudden or gradual weakness on one side of the body or an arm or leg, or are unable to walk.
- You have a sudden, severe headache, blurred vision or high fever.
- You develop chest pain, nausea or vomiting.

If you have any of the above symptoms, **DO NOT DRIVE**. Have someone else drive you or call your local emergency services (911 in U.S.) for help.

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