FAQ's About Methadone

Q.) WHAT IS METHADONE?
A.) Methadone is a long-acting narcotic medication. It is used for treating heroin abuse.

Q.) HOW IS METHADONE USED?
A.) Methadone is usually available as an oral or injectable medication.

Q.) WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF METHADONE?
A.) Methadone's effects are less powerful than heroin. However, Its pain killing and euphoric qualities are similar. Methadone causes a sense of well being, warmth, contentment, drowsiness, and a feeling of being untroubled. Physically, the pupils of the eye become smaller, the body temperature drops, and blood pressure and pulse slow down. You should not drive a car or operate heavy machinery while on this medication.

Q.) WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF METHADONE?
A.) Methadone produces a wide number of side effects. Some of these are:

- Drowsiness
- Lightheadedness
- Weakness
- Euphoria
- Allergic reactions
- Skin rash
- Hives
- Itching
- Dry mouth
- Urinary retention
- Constipation
- Slow or troubled breathing
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Impaired concentration
- Sensation of drunkenness
- Confusion Depression
- Blurred or double vision
- Facial flushing
- Sweating
- Heart palpitation
- Nausea
- Vomiting

More uncommon side effects may include:

- Anaphylactic reactions
- Hypertension causing weakness and fainting
- Disorientation
- Hallucinations
- Unstable gait
- Tremor
- Muscle twitching
- Myasthenia gravis
- Kidney failure
- Seizures

Q.) IS METHADONE ADDICTIVE?
A.) Some people addicted to heroin go on to methadone addiction. They continue with this "treatment" for years, fearing the withdrawal that will occur when they stop. Methadone does not have to be the way of life for former heroin addicts. Gradual cessation followed by a drug-free program of rehabilitation may be the answer for many sufferers.

Q.) WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF METHADONE WITHDRAWAL?
A.) Heroin users have claimed that the horrors of heroin withdrawal were far less painful and difficult than withdrawal from methadone.
Methadone withdrawal symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Sneezing
- Yawning
- Tearing of eyes
- Runny nose
- Dilated pupils
- Abdominal cramps
- Nausea
- Body aches
- Tremors
- Irritability
- Excessive perspiration
- Fever

Q.) WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AN OVERDOSE OF METHADONE?
A.) **A methadone overdose is a serious medical emergency. In the event of suspected overdose, CALL 911**.

If the person is losing consciousness lie them on their side so that they will not choke if they vomit. Inducing people to vomit is not recommended. There is a risk of CNS depression/unconsciousness which could lead to choking.

SYMPTOMS OF AN OVERDOSE FROM METHADONE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Muscle spasticity
- Difficulty breathing
- Slow, shallow and labored breathing
- Stopped breathing
- Pinpoint pupils
- Bluish skin
- Bluish fingernails and lips
- Spasms of the stomach and/or intestinal tract
- Constipation
- Weak pulse
- Low blood pressure
- Drowsiness
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Death

Q.) WHY IS METHADONE DETOX NECESSARY?

A.) Methadone detox is necessary for those who have tried to stop using opiates with methadone maintenance.

Document Released: 11/27/2007

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