

AMYL NITRITE

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

- light-headedness/ dizziness
- increased sensual awareness
- removal of inhibitions
- skin sensitivity
- headache
- nose bleeds
- lose consciousness

LONG TERM EFFECTS

Compared to many drugs, amyl nitrite has less toxicity as long as it is inhaled as intended. There are no recorded sudden deaths from inhaling nitrites. While the possibility of death or serious injury from inhaling is fairly remote, there is a major toxicity problem with nitrites if they are swallowed rather than inhaled. When they are eaten nitrites can cause major medical problems by interfering with the ability of the blood to transport oxygen. Oral consumption of nitrites has led to death in some circumstances.

DOSE

A typical therapeutic dose is 0.3 ml. The effects are felt within 30 seconds of inhalation and last for two to three minutes

DESCRIPTION

Amyl nitrite is one of the nitrite class of drugs. Others include butyl nitrite, isobutyl nitrite and the nitrates such as nitro-glycerine. Amyl nitrite is a vasodilator, meaning it dilates blood vessels. It is a clear, yellow, highly volatile and inflammable liquid. The liquid smells sweet and fruity when fresh but like 'sweaty socks' when stale. Amyl nitrite is also known as 'poppers'.

HISTORY

Amyl nitrite was discovered in 1857 and was used for a variety of medical applications. Used to relieve severe constricting chest pain caused by angina pectoris, physicians soon found amyl nitrite to be unreliable and turned to other substances, particularly nitro-glycerine, as the medicine of choice. Nitrites are usually in a liquid form and contained in small bottles. Recreational users inhale the fumes from the bottle in 'snorts'. It became fashionable to use amyl nitrite in the 1950s within show business circles. The gay community discovered the drug in the sixties due to its alleged sex enhancing properties. Clinically, Amyl nitrite is only used when very rapid absorption through inhalation is necessary for some cardiac medical procedures. It is also used to treat cyanide poisoning. In clinical settings, amyl nitrite is prepared in small ampoules that are crushed, freeing the vapours to be inhaled..

PROBLEMS

Combining amyl and Viagra is also problematic, causing loss of consciousness, and in some circumstances – death. It is also believed that regular use of the drug could reduce the effectiveness of HIV drugs. Use of nitrites should be avoided by people who are anaemic, pregnant women and those with high blood pressure or a history of cerebral haemorrhaging.



acon
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S
HEALTH & WELLBEING