

Cocaine is an alkaloid synthesized from coca plant cultivated illegitimately in Latin American countries. It is a white powdery substance or crystal rock. There are instances of consumption of liquid cocaine as well. Cocaine can be snorted up the nose, rubbed on gums, heated and smoked into the lungs or injected with a needle.

The drug is stimulant in nature and sends high levels of dopamine, a natural chemical messenger in your body, into the parts of your brain that control pleasure. This buildup causes intense feelings of energy and alertness called a high.

Other short-term effects of cocaine may include: Extreme sensitivity to touch, sound, and sight, Intense happiness, Anger/irritability, Paranoia, Decreased appetite

People who use cocaine often may also have more serious side effects and health problems, like: Headaches, Convulsions and seizures, Heart disease, heart attack, and stroke, Mood problems, Sexual trouble, Lung damage, HIV or hepatitis if you inject it, Bowel decay if you swallow it, Loss of smell, nosebleeds, runny nose, and trouble swallowing, if you snort it.

One may have strong cravings for the drug and the high it brings. But the more you use cocaine, the more your brain will adapt to it. One will need a stronger dose to feel the same high. This can lead to a dangerous addiction or overdose.

Stronger, more frequent doses can also cause long-term changes in one's brain's chemistry. The body and mind begin to rely on the drug. This can make it harder for one to think, sleep, and recall things from memory. One's reaction time may be slower. And one is at higher risk for heart, stomach, and lung related medical problems.

No medicines are approved to treat cocaine addiction.