



Centre de Prévention  
des Toxicomanies

# Cocaine



## *Active substance*

- cocaine or methyl benzoylecgonine (white powder obtained from distilling coca leaves)

## *Legal status*

- illegal



## *Administration routes*

- sniffed/snorted
- less commonly smoked (crack/free-base) or injected

## *Time of onset and duration*

- takes effect within a few minutes, duration 30 to 90 minutes by time of onset

## *Effects*

- increased heart rate, higher blood pressure
- euphoria, loss of inhibition, unconcern
- greatly increased self-confidence, heightened sensation of power
- insensitivity to fatigue, hunger, thirst and pain
- less frequently: fear, restlessness, sleeplessness, paranoia

## *Risks of addiction*

- psychological dependency if consumed regularly

## *Associated risks*

- when the effect wears off: depressive mood and anxiety
- shared use of the straw or needle poses a risk of hepatitis C infection, liver damage
- destruction of the nasal septum
- heart attack, cardiac arrhythmia, high blood pressure
- severe headaches, epileptic fits, stroke
- especially in the case of crack consumption: coughing, chest pains, breathing problems, death caused by pulmonary oedema
- panic attacks, hallucinations, paranoia, sleeplessness

## I'll stop taking coke when I want to

A psychological dependence may come about as a result of regular consumption. Consumers then experience the desire and a powerful need to experience the psychoactive effects of cocaine again, such as for example the feeling of omnipotence and heightened lucidity. The question as to physical dependency is unresolved and is a source of controversial debate to this very day.

## Cocaine, the drug of the financial world

Cocaine consumption was long associated with the financial world and high society. Nowadays, cocaine consumption is far more widespread owing to the lower selling price and the use of cocaine as a recreational drug. Other substances are frequently ingested with cocaine.

## Crack, free-base, speedball

Crack, also known as *free-base*, is the crystalline form of cocaine. It is made by adding ammonia and baking soda. Crack is mostly smoked in a pipe.

Simultaneously injecting cocaine and an opiate (heroin or morphine) is generally called *speedball*, *snowball* or *powerball*. The same mixture is called *moonrocks* when smoked.

In general, the risk of an accident or addiction increases if different psychoactive substances are consumed at the same time.





## **The consumption of psychoactive substances entails risks**

**The consumption of any psychoactive substance can cause dependency. Particular caution is called for:**

- if the quality of the product cannot be checked
- when consuming different psychoactive substances at the same time
- in adolescence (physical and mental development)
- in traffic or when operating machinery

**You should abstain entirely from psychoactive substances during pregnancy and while breastfeeding**

# FRONO



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Mo - Fr: 9.00 - 13.00

Questions about  
**ADDICTION,**  
**DRUGS &**  
**HELP SERVICES?**

## **Library**

**www.cept.lu**

Mo - Th: 9.00 - 13.00 / 14.00 - 17.00

Fr: 9.00 - 13.00

8-10 rue de la Fonderie

L-1531 Luxembourg

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