

- **PCP**

- PCP or phencyclidine was originally created as a general anesthetic and is a synthetic dissociative drug. Dissociative drugs cause users to feel detached from the environment and the self. PCP is often sold in vanilla extract bottles as it is a clear, yellow, or tan liquid in its pure form. It can also be mixed with dyes that make colored powder, capsules, or tablets. PCP has sold as THC, methamphetamine, mescaline, LSD, MDMA, and formaldehyde. It has also been found in ecstasy. Users who claim to dip marijuana and tabbacco cigarettes in embalming fluid to enhance their high. Instead of dipping their ciggerette in formaldehyde, as they believe is true, studies show that their cigarettes are laced with PCP. (cesar)
- **Street Names:** The use of straight PCP may be called angel dust, amoeba, amp, belladonna, animal trunk, zoom, peace pills, boat, sherm stick, super grass, STP, and embalming fluid. The combination of marijuana nad PCP is called wet, dust blunt, happy stick, fry sticks, love boat, illy, and dippers. The use of PCP and MDMA can also be called elaphant flipping and pikachu. (cesar)
- **Uses:** Users of PCP either injest it orally, snort it, smoke it, or inject it. However, injecting PCP is uncommon. Users may snort PCP as a powder or sprinkle it on marijuana, parcely, or mint and smoke it leading to an effect in two to five minutes that lasts four to six hours. When ingested orally, through pills or capsules, effects are felt in thirty to sixty minutes and felt for six to twenty-four hours. (cesar)
- **Physical Effects:** The effects of PCP depends on the size of the dose, the setting, the user's expectations and past experiences with the drug, and the user's personality. Types of physical effects include impaired motor skills, blurred vision and constricted pupils, dizziness, painful reaction to sound, blank staring, speech disturbances, muscular rigidity, decreased sensitivity and awareness of pain, touch, and position, stupor or coma, irregular heartbeat, alternatively abnormally low and abnormally high blood pressure, slow, shallow, or irregular breathing, nausea, vomiting, salvation, and increased blood pressure and sweating alternately with chills and shivering. (cesar)
- **Psychological Effects:** PCP affects the neurotransmitters glutamate and dopamine. Glutamate plays a role in the perception of pain, learning, memory, and emotion while dopamine involves the euphoria associated with drug use. Other effects include relaxation and drowsiness, feelings of dissociation from reality, feelings of weightlessness, distortion of time and space, visual and auditory hallucinations, difficulty concentrating and thinking, anxiety, agitation, paranoid thoughts, confusion and disorientation, feelings of alienation, depression, bizarre or hostile behavior, obsession with trivial matters, grandiose dillusions, and panic, terror, and fear of imminent death. (cesar)
- **Long-Term Effects:** Very high doses can lead to an overdose resulting in convulsions, coma, or death. Long term use can have many consequences. It can result in "runs", a condition that causes one to binge use PCP. A person may go two or three days without eating or sleeping while repeatedly taking PCP. After this time one goes into a period of sleep. "Runs" can occur as many as four times a month. Long-term use can also cause impaired memory, "flashbacks" similar to what an LSD user may experience, persistent speech problems, chronic and severe anxiety and depression that may lead to suicide attempts, social withdrawal and isolation, and toxic psychosis, the symptoms of which are aggressive or hostile behavior, paraoia, delusional thinking, and auditory hallucinations. (cesar)

Source:

Center for Substance Abuse Research [<http://www.cesar.umd.edu>]