



LSD in Medicine

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What is LSD and how does it work?

- ★ LSD - lysergic acid diethylamide
- ★ Illegal street drug that can be found/bought in liquid, capsule, white powder, or tablet, most take it by mouth but it can be injected or snorted
- ★ It is a hallucinogen, a mind altering drug
 - It changes mood, behavior, thoughts, attitude towards the world
 - It affects the serotonin levels in the brain
- ★ LSD can either cause a good or bad trip & it can be unpredictable

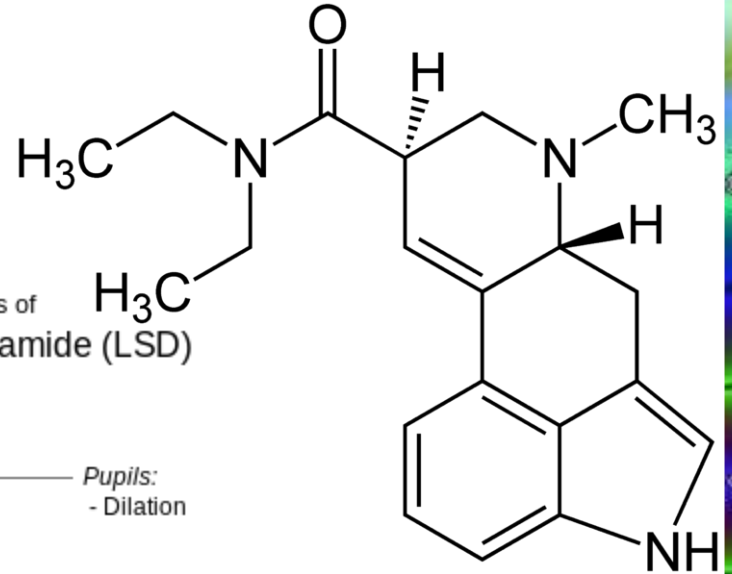


Visual Aids:



Physical effects of Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)

- Systemic:**
 - Increased temperature
- Pupils:**
 - Dilation
- Mouth:**
 - Dryness
- Blood:**
 - High blood pressure
- Skin:**
 - Profuse sweating
- Heart:**
 - Increased heart rate
- Gastric:**
 - Nausea
- Muscles:**
 - Numbness
 - Weakness
 - Tremors



Past Reactions to LSD use:

- ★ LSD and tests using it were common in the 60's and 70's, but has since been banned
- ★ Very little research has been practiced with LSD since then, but interest in the psychedelic has been picking back up recently
- ★ Very few studies have been granted the ability to experiment with LSD's affects
- ★ LSD is listed as a Class A drug, meaning it has no medical value and commonly causes harm to its user
- ★ Possession of LSD is punished by up to 7 years in prison, while drug dealing LSD can result in a life-long sentence

What can LSD treat?

- ★ Can help patients access painfully repressed memories and find self-acceptance with them
- ★ Alcoholics treated for a short time using LSD reported a complete turn-around of their opinions of and dependency on alcohol
- ★ Treats chronic and cluster headaches (often called suicide headaches)
- ★ Reportedly treated anxiety in patients suffering from advanced-stage fatal diseases
- ★ Used to lift moods of patients with anxiety and depression

Current use of LSD in Medicine:

- ★ In the UK, they looked at the medicinal purposes for LSD
 - Eventually used a psycholytic drug 20-100 milligrams in stretched periods of time
 - Psycholytic drug - basically means hallucinogen
- ★ Doctors found that patients near death who took a strain of LSD, mixed with psychotherapy, had anxiety about death alleviated
- ★ Bromo-LSD (no psychoactive part) treated suicidal headaches



Statistics of LSD use in medicine:

- ★ on anxiety in patients with advanced-stage illnesses on 12 participants reported higher moods, a clearer idea of life's importance, more helpful and joyous relationships, as well as a renewed interest in relaxing and healthy activities
- ★ In 50,000 treatments, only 2 suicides and 37 cases of psychosis were reported
- ★ Alcoholics tested helped two thirds of the patients quit drinking for at least 18 months
- ★ patients with cluster headaches reported that one session of the headaches ceased for 7 out of 8 patients, and 4 out of 5 patients reported less frequent headaches.
- ★ In the 30's, 12 patients received 200 micrograms of LSD & reported no bad side effects

What are the controversial side effects of LSD:

- ★ Psychotic experiences and psychosis
 - Terrifying thoughts and distorted senses (mainly eyesight and hearing)
- ★ Severe anxiety, often labelled as a 'bad trip'
 - Feeling not in control of one's actions or 'lost'
- ★ Suicidal crises and extreme and rapid changes in mood
- ★ Flashbacks, anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia after an LSD trip
- ★ Increased heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, and body temperature
- ★ Sleeplessness, tremors, loss of appetite, increased sweating

Personal Opinion of LSD:

Though recreational LSD is still prohibited, medicinal LSD could possibly contribute to the treatment of chronic headaches and other neurological issues. Hallucinogens are not often tested for their medicinal abilities, and could offer something new to the medical field.

However, given the large and critical amount of side effects associated with the drug, it is not yet safe to be used as a medicine. Testing should be continued in a controlled, clinical setting with small administered doses to avoid seriously injuring patients.

Questions:

1. What kind of drug is LSD?

A: Hallucinogen B: Antidepressant C: Mood stabilizer D: None of the above

2. What are some things that LSD can help?

3. Is taking LSD dangerous to your health?

4. Is LSD commonly used in medicine? Has it ever been?

5. Which one of these is not a side effect of LSD?

A: psychotic experiences B: anxiety C: lowered heart rate D: distorted senses

Question Answers:

1. A
2. Examples: alcoholism, repressed memories, anxiety and depression, chronic headaches
3. Yes, taking LSD can cause many negative side effects, some that are permanent.
4. Currently, LSD is ranked as a dangerous, non medicinal drug. Some studies are granted the use of LSD, but it hasn't been commonly tested since the 60's.
5. C

That's all Folks!



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