

# BENZODIAZEPINES (BENZOS)

*Tranquilizer medications for treating insomnia and anxiety.*

## ABOUT BENZODIAZEPINES (BENZOS)

- Classified as Schedule IV in the Controlled Substances Act
- Has a high potential for abuse, especially when used with other depressants such as alcohol or opiates
- Benzos have sedative properties and slow down the functions of the central nervous system
- Often sold and purchased illegally by recreational users in pill form, syrup, or injectable.
- Available in pill form, syrup or as an injectable

## ABUSE

Benzodiazepines, particularly those having a rapid onset, are abused to produce a euphoric effect. Abuse of benzodiazepines is often associated with multiple-substance abuse. Individuals abusing benzodiazepines obtain them by getting prescriptions from several doctors, forging prescriptions, or buying diverted pharmaceutical products on the illicit market.

## EFFECTS

Symptoms can include drowsiness, impaired motor coordination, impaired thinking and memory, altered vision, slowed reflexes, erratic behavior, confusion, and impaired memory and judgement.

A person using benzos is likely to look drowsy and sleepy, lack coordination, and be hostile and irritable. Two of the main effects of abuse are development of a tolerance and addiction. When benzodiazepines are abused with other drugs, the effect can be coma or death.

## REASONS TO ADD TO YOUR DRUG PANEL

- A study performed by SAMHSA discovered that benzodiazepines are recreationally the most frequently used pharmaceuticals in the U.S., and account for 35% of all drug-related visits to hospital emergency and urgent care facilities.
- Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths involving benzodiazepines rose from 0.58 per 100,000 people in 1999 to 3.07 per 100,000 in 2013.
- A 2005 study published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry found that not only did the use of benzodiazepines interfere with visuospatial ability, speed of processing thoughts and perceptions and the ability to absorb verbal lessons, but also after a person withdrew from benzodiazepine use, these abilities did not fully return. Those who used benzodiazepines over a longer period of time were more impaired.
- In a Treatment Episode Data Set report, it stated that almost all benzodiazepine admissions (95 percent) reported abuse of another substance in addition to abuse of benzodiazepines.

## TRADE NAMES

Xanax  
Valium  
Ativan  
Seresta  
Restoril  
Madar



## SLANG / STREET TERMS

Benzos  
Downers  
Nerve Pills  
Tranks  
V's  
Z bars



Psychemedics Corporation is the world's leading hair drug testing company. Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology is trusted by Fortune 500 companies, police forces, courts, schools, and parents all over the world.