

Instructor's Guide

Drugs: Uses and Abuses PCP AND KETAMINE

The History of PCP

PCP was developed in the 1950s by Parke Davis & Company. It was tested on animals and humans, and found to be medically useful as a surgical anesthetic. Parke Davis marketed it for a short time as a surgical anesthetic for humans under the trade name Sernyl, but it sometimes caused patients to have terrifying hallucinations after surgery. Because of this side effect, it was removed from the human market. Veterinarians continued to use the drug, marketed under the trade name Sernylan, during surgery on animals.

Gradually PCP developed a reputation as a recreational drug, and legitimate veterinary supplies were increasingly diverted for illicit sale. In 1978, the commercial product Sernylan was withdrawn from the market, but PCP was still being made in clandestine laboratories, as it is today. However, because the activities of these laboratories are not regulated in any way, the purity and potency of street PC is highly questionable. In the early 1970s, the federal government classified PCP as a controlled substance. Then in 1978, more restrictions were placed on PCP, reclassifying it as a drug with even greater potential for abuse and psychological or physical dependence.

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- Miller, Penney and Trent Tschirgi. "What is the History of PCP?" 1992. *METNET Drug Information Base*. Online. University of Maryland. 20 April 2000.

PCP Timeline

- 1926** Phencyclidine (PCP) is first synthesized.
- mid 1950s** Parke Davis begins studying the possibility of using PCP as a human anesthetic.
- 1957** PCP is tested for the first time on human subjects. Worrisome side effects such as hallucinations, mania, delirium, and disorientation are observed.
- 1963** PCP is patented as a surgical analgesic and anesthetic under the name Sernyl.
- 1965** PCP is withdrawn for use on humans because of reports of the negative effects caused by its use.
- 1967** PCP is marketed under the name Sernylan as a tranquilizer and anesthetic for animals.
- 1967** PCP shows up on the street as a recreational drug under a variety of names including "angel dust," "hog," "super-weed," and "THC." Because it is inexpensive and relatively easy to make, the drug is frequently marketed and sold as other substances including cocaine, LSD, and THC.
- Early 1970s** PCP becomes a federally controlled substance.
- 1973-1975** Use of PCP spreads quickly in the U.S.
- 1978** PCP is reclassified by the federal government as an even more dangerous drug.
- 1979** Seven percent of high school seniors report having used PCP in the last year.
- 1980-1995** The use of PCP among high school students steadily declines between 1979 and the mid-1990s.

• The Vaults of Erowid. *PCP Timeline*. www.erowid.org/chemicals/pcp/pcp_timeline.php3. © 2000.

Questions

1. Discuss some of the side effects of PCP and Ketamine.
2. What is the chemical name of PCP?
3. What are some of the slang or street terms for PCP and Ketamine?
4. How does PCP differ from most drugs in the way it affects the different areas or neurotransmitters of the brain? What are some of the areas that PCP affects? Why does this make the drug especially dangerous?
5. How did PCP and Ketamine originate?
6. What are the most common forms of the drugs, and how are they used?
7. How long does the high last for PCP and Ketamine? After the initial high, what side effects set in, and how long do they last?

Answer Key

- 1. Discuss some of the side effects of PCP and Ketamine.**
PCP's side effects include agitation, delusions, seizures, bizarre behavior, violent rages, suicidal fits, paranoia, detachment, and heart stress.
- 2. What is the chemical name of PCP?**
Phencyclidine.
- 3. What are some of the slang or street terms for PCP and Ketamine?**
PCP: Angel dust, hog, wack, rocket fuel, zombie dust, amoeba, and new acid.
Ketamine: Cat valium, Special K, and blind squid.
- 4. How does PCP differ from most drugs in the way it affects the different areas or neurotransmitters of the brain? What are some of the areas that PCP affects? Why does this make the drug especially dangerous?**
PCP affects at least six areas of the brain, where most drugs affect only one or two. Areas impaired include movement, judgment, vision, memory, reward, and coordination. It is like combining the effects of sedatives, stimulants, narcotics, and hallucinogens into one drug. This is why the drug is so unpredictable and very dangerous.
- 5. How did PCP and Ketamine originate?**
PCP was first manufactured as an anesthetic in 1957. Less than 10 years later, its use on humans was discontinued once its full effects and side effects became known. It was used as an animal tranquilizer for a while, but since the late 70s, any use of the drug has been illegal.

Ketamine is a medical anesthetic used on animals. Marketed as Ketalar or Ketaset, it is a legally controlled substance, and still used by veterinarians today.
- 6. What are the most common forms of the drugs, and how are they used?**
PCP: Tablets, capsules, and colored powders, which are snorted, eaten, or smoked.
Ketamine: Dealers try the liquid and grind it into a powder that is smoked or snorted.
- 7. How long does the high last for PCP and Ketamine? After the initial high, what side effects set in, and how long do they last?**
PCP: The initial high lasts for several hours, however; side effects including memory loss, depression, difficulty with speech and thought patterns, coma, and brain damage can last up to a year. Permanent brain damage has also been reported.

Ketamine: The initial high lasts between one and six hours, but it can take up to two days for the user to feel normal again. Lasting effects include blocked speech, muscle rigidity, numbness, hallucinations, and violent behavior.

Discussion Starters

1. Why might someone consider using PCP or Ketamine?
2. Discuss what you would do if your best friend started smoking PCP.
3. What would you do if a group of close friends offered you a PCP-laced joint?
4. Who would you go to if you or a friend had any questions about or problems with PCP or Ketamine?

Additional Resources

streetdrugs.org

www.streetdrugs.org/pcp.htm

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD)

www.ncadd.org

SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

www.health.org

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

www.drugabuse.gov

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America®

www.drugfree.org

Additional Resources at www.films.com

Available from Films Media Group • www.films.com • 1-800-257-5126

Drug Posters

- Eight 17" x 22" posters (available laminated or unlaminated)
- Order # 10901



This series of brightly illustrated, attention-grabbing posters explains, in detail, the harsh realities of substance abuse and the life-threatening decisions kids make today. With compelling up-to-date factual information, these posters cover the most popular drugs in teenage society. Use them to inform, explore myths, and promote valuable discussions. Posters include Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Narcotics, Phencyclidine (PCP), Sedatives, Steroids, Stimulants, Marijuana. A Cambridge Educational Product. © 2000.

Teen Danger Zone: Teens at Risk

- VHS/DVD
- Close captioned
- Preview clip online at www.films.com (Search on 36248)
- Correlates to educational standards
- Order # 36248

Combining hard-hitting personal stories with cold facts, the first six segments of this chaptered program report on some of the most common drugs currently being abused by teens: OxyContin, PMA, Special K (ketamine), the methamphetamine Ice, inhalants, and, in the form of binge drinking, alcohol. The final segment focuses on hazing, a frequently outlawed form of initiation that, like substance abuse, speaks directly to the teenage desire to fit in with peers—sometimes at any cost. Recommended for high school. (46 minutes) © 2006.

The Price of Ecstasy

- VHS/DVD
- Preview clip online at www.films.com (Search on 33319)
- Order #33319

This balanced program takes a nonjudgmental look at the pleasures and dangers of party drugs through the eyes of abusers and the medical practitioners and social workers who engage with them. Footage of consenting abusers taking and tripping on ecstasy, ketamine, and GHB gives an objective view of club drug highs, while interviews with doctors, researchers, and addiction counselors outline possible ramifications of substance abuse, including date rape, addiction, and death. Also, a plea for research into clinical applications for ecstasy is made. Contains nudity and mature themes. A Discovery Channel Production. (51 minutes) © 2002.

Facts on ... Drugs

- CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh)
- Preview clip online at www.films.com (Search on 31862)
- Correlates to the American School Health Association standards and the Joint Committee for National School Health Education and the American Cancer Society standards.
- "Honest in [its] assessment, offering valuable information on substances that are commonly referred to only as 'illegal' and 'harmful'—vague castigations that sometimes entice youth rather than deter them."

—*Youth Today*

- Order # 31862

Conversational in tone yet authoritative in content, this interactive electronic reference guide gives the scoop on dozens of commonly abused drugs, including marijuana, cocaine and crack, heroin, ecstasy, methamphetamine, PCP, inhalants, and steroids, as well as prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Includes information on the different categories and types of drugs, the abuse of street drugs and medicinal drugs, the effects of specific drugs on the body, warning signs and potential consequences of drug abuse, and treatment for drug addiction. Also contains quizzes, a list of frequently asked questions, a glossary, and more. All material is printable, for handy offline reference. A Cambridge Educational Production. © 2003.

The series *Drugs: Uses and Abuses* includes

- Sedatives
- Narcotics
- Stimulants
- Psychedelics and Hallucinogens
 - Inhalants
 - THC
- PCP and Ketamine
 - Steroids