

STIMULANTS

Stimulants increase alertness, attention and energy, which are accompanied by increases in blood pressure, heart rate, and respiration.

Stimulants are used to treat asthma, narcolepsy, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and depression. Examples of stimulants are Dexedrine and Ritalin.

The consequences of stimulant abuse can be extremely dangerous. Taking high doses of a stimulant can result in irregular heartbeat, high body temperatures, cardiovascular failure or seizures. Taking high doses of stimulants repeatedly over a short period of time can lead to hostility or feelings of paranoia in some people.

Stimulants should not be mixed with antidepressants or over the counter cold medicines that contain decongestants.

Complications of Chronic Use:

Depression, Suicide, violent behaviour
Psychosis (paranoid delusions or hallucinations that may persist for months)
Memory loss
Infections
Cardiovascular risks (stroke)
Cortical damage (eye)
Infertility (difficulty getting pregnant)
Self neglect, weight loss

Individuals who become addicted to prescription medication can be treated. All mental and emotional difficulties do not have to be treated with medication, as there are alternatives.