

# PCP (Angel Dust)

## What is PCP?

PCP (phencyclidine), also known as **angel dust**, is usually known as a **hallucinogen**. However, it also has the effects of a **stimulant**, an **anesthetic**, or a **narcotic pain-killer**, depending on how much is taken. It sometimes goes by the street name of "**horse tranquilizer**."

PCP can be sold as a **powder, liquid or tablet**, and can be **smoked, swallowed or injected**. It is sometimes passed off as LSD, marijuana, or other drugs.

PCP is sometimes taken with LSD and is often sprinkled on marijuana and smoked.

## Long Term Effects

- Using PCP over an extended period of time can lead to **persistent speech problems, depression, anxiety, or memory loss**.
- Some users may experience **flashbacks** in which a sensation or hallucination may recur **days, weeks, or months** after the drug has been taken. **Anxiety** and **withdrawal from social situations** may also occur.
- It is **impossible to predict the behavior** of someone who has taken PCP. Users may develop a **condition similar to schizophrenia**. Users may also become **aggressive, violent, paranoid**, and **delusional**. Users can also have **auditory hallucinations**.

## Short-term Effects

- The effects of PCP may **vary greatly**, more so than most street drugs.
- It has both **stimulant** and **depressant effects**. These effects can include a sense of **separation from one's surroundings** and **difficulties in concentrating and communicating**.
- Users may experience **distortions of time, space, and body image**, may become **highly confused**.
- With higher doses, some people become **paranoid, terrified**, and either **aggressive or passive**. This experience is referred to as a "**bad trip**" and may last **several days**.
- Occasionally, people who have taken PCP have been **injured in accidents** caused by **drug-induced confusion**. Some people have **died as a result of accidents** caused by this confusion.
- A PCP overdose can cause **convulsions, coma, and possibly death**.

## Tolerance and Dependence

Tolerance is the body's adaptation to the presence of a drug. When tolerance to a drug like PCP increases, more of the drug is necessary to achieve the same effect. Some people who use PCP become **dependent**. The effects of PCP are **extremely unpredictable**. Both short term and long term effects are serious and will differ for each person. As well, the user may experience different effects each time the drug is taken.