Cocaine

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/cocaine.html

Also called: Blow, C, Coca, Coke, Crack, Flake, Snow

Cocaine is a white powder. It can be snorted up the nose or mixed with water and injected with a needle. Cocaine can also be made into small white rocks, called crack. Crack is smoked in a small glass pipe.

Cocaine speeds up your whole body. You may feel full of energy, happy, and excited. But then your mood can change. You can become angry, nervous, and afraid that someone's out to get you. You might do things that make no sense. After the "high" of the cocaine wears off, you can "crash" and feel tired and sad for days. You also get a strong craving to take the drug again to try to feel better.

No matter how cocaine is taken, it is dangerous. Some of the most common serious problems include heart attack and stroke. You are also at risk for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, from sharing needles or having unsafe sex. Cocaine is more dangerous when combined with other drugs or alcohol.

It is easy to lose control over cocaine use and become addicted. Then, even if you get treatment, it can be hard to stay off the drug. People who stopped using cocaine can still feel strong cravings for the drug, sometimes even years later.

NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Start Here

- Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/la-cocaina]
  (National Institute on Drug Abuse)

Overviews

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/serie-de-reportes/cocaina-abuso-y-adiccion]

Treatment

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/enfoques-de-tratamiento-para-la-drogadicion]
- What Is Substance Abuse Treatment? A Booklet for Families [http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA08-4126/SMA08-4126.pdf] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA08-4098/SMA08-4098.pdf]

Pictures & Photographs

Clinical Trials
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Cocaine-Related Disorders [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open(condition=%22Cocaine-Related+Disorders%22) **NIH (National Institutes of Health)**
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Crack Cocaine [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open(condition=%22Crack+Cocaine%22) **NIH (National Institutes of Health)**

Research

Journal Articles
References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

Directories
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator [http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/TreatmentLocator.faces/quickSearch.jspx] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

Organizations
- Drug Enforcement Administration [http://www.justice.gov/dea/]
- National Institute on Drug Abuse [http://www.drugabuse.gov/] **NIH**
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/inicio]
- Partnership at Drugfree.org [http://www.drugfree.org/] (Partnership for a Drug-Free America)

Statistics

Children
- What You Need to Know about Drugs: Cocaine and Crack [http://kidshealth.org/kid/grow/drugs_alcohol/know_drugs_cocaine.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Teenagers
Also available in Spanish [http://teens.drugabuse.gov/node/3040]


Women

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.motherstobaby.org/files/cocaine_sp.pdf]

Patient Handouts

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000947.htm]

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The primary NIH organization for research on Cocaine is the National Institute on Drug Abuse [http://www.nida.nih.gov/]

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