Heroin

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

Also called: H, Junk, Skag, Smack

Heroin is a drug made from morphine, a natural substance in the seedpod of the Asian poppy plant. Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder. Heroin can be injected, smoked or snorted. Heroin abuse is a serious problem in the United States. Major health problems from heroin include miscarriages, heart infections and death from overdose. People who inject the drug also risk infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

Regular use of heroin can lead to tolerance. This means users need more and more drug to have the same effect. At higher doses over time, the body becomes dependent on heroin. If dependent users stop heroin, they have withdrawal symptoms. These symptoms include restlessness, muscle and bone pain, diarrhea, vomiting and cold flashes.

NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Start Here

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

Overviews

- Heroin [http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/drugs/heroin.html] (Drug Enforcement Administration)

Latest News

- Vaccine to Fight Heroin Addiction Shows Promise in Rats

Treatment

- Facts about Buprenorphine for Treatment of Opioid Addiction [http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA09-4442/SMA09-4442.pdf] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/enfoques-de-tratamiento-para-la-drogadiccien]
- 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: Heroin Dependence
Research


Journal Articles

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


Directories

- Buprenorphine Physician Locator [http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns_locator/dr_facilitylocatordoc.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

- Opioid Treatment Program Directory [http://dpt2.samhsa.gov/treatment/directory.aspx] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

- 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

- Characteristics of Adolescent Heroin Admissions [http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/201/201AdHeroinTx2k9.htm] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)


Children

- What You Need to Know About Drugs: Heroin [http://kidshealth.org/kid/grow/drugs_alcohol/know_drugs_heroin.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Teenagers
Patient Handouts

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/002861.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000949.htm]
  (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - PDF

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

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