



AMPHETAMINE

Speed, Bill, Dexies, Uppers, Wizz

**Amphetamine Sulphate
dexamphersamine**

**Sold under: Benzedrine, Dexedrine and
Methdrine**

History

Amphetamines were first used to increase the performance of the armed forces during the second world war.

During the 1950s and 1960s amphetamines were prescribed to treat depression.



Appearance

A white crystalline powder typically 5% pure or less. The other 95% could be glucose, talc, Paracetamol, strychnine etc.

Base amphetamine or 'Paste' is a sticky crystalline paste that smells of ammonia. It comes from earlier in the production process and should be treated with some caution. The purity is usually higher but unpredictable.





EFFECTS

Amphetamine mimics adrenaline by activating and arousing the central nervous system. The user will feel alert, energetic and confident.

The heart rate and blood pressure rise as the mouth becomes dry and hands become sweaty. Most people lose their appetite and will not feel tired until the effects wear off.

The day after, there is a sense of being washed out but there might also be a tendency towards mood swings, anger and confusion.

If used frequently or long-term, lack of sleep and not eating properly can deepen the depression that follows.

Heavy use of speed may induce 'amphetamine psychosis' with symptoms similar to some forms of schizophrenia. Amphetamines can induce latent mental health problems because you are not giving your body a chance to recover.

Amphetamines exhaust the user's reserves of strength, therefore the body's resistance to disease is lowered.

Heavy, extended use may cause high blood pressure, irregular heart beats, strokes and affect women's menstruation and fertility.

Health Risks

Malnutrition, as a result of prolonged use of amphetamines, may starve the body of calcium causing brittle bones, rheumatism or arthritis in old age.

It is much safer to swallow (known as 'dabbing' or 'bombing') the drug since the stomach is designed to get rid of irritants which the nose or veins are not.

Speed should be avoided by people with high blood pressure, heart or respiratory problems, present or past psychological problems, hypertension, glaucoma or pregnancy.



The Law

Amphetamine is a class B drug unless prepared for injection when it becomes a class A drug.

Dependency

Research suggests that there is no physical addiction to amphetamine but psychologically a user can feel unable to do anything without it. A tolerance quickly develops with regular use and the amount needed soon increases.