

EFFECTS OF OTHER DRUGS

Key Points

1. Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the US
2. Marijuana affects the regions in the brain that are responsible for the five senses, heart rate, emotions, memory, and judgment.
3. Long-term use of some drugs can lead to physical dependence and addiction.
4. Addiction is an uncontrollable compulsion to repeat a behavior regardless of its consequences.
5. If someone is taking medicine (even an over-the-counter drug), drinking alcohol or using any other drug is very dangerous because there is no way to know how the body will react to the combination.
6. Alcohol can also minimize how well a medication is absorbed in the body, often making it less effective.
7. Distributing drugs, even prescription drugs, is considered drug dealing and is illegal. This means that it is illegal to share your prescription medication with someone else or to sell your prescription medication to another person.
8. Misuse of medications is dangerous; misuse occurs when a person does not follow the directions on the medication label (prescription and/or over the counter). Generally this is done to try to feel better or get faster results. The intention is often good, but the results can be dangerous.
9. Abuse of medications is dangerous; abuse is using these medicines to get high or for a reason other than for what the medicine is intended.

