

Drugs and Consciousness

Psychoactive drugs are chemicals that change perception and mood and usually produces a *tolerance*.

If this happens, quitting is difficult because of withdrawal effects that indicate and physical and psychological dependence on the drug.

3 Myths About Addiction:

1. **Addictive drugs quickly corrupt.**

medicinal marijuana

2. **Addictions can't be overcome voluntarily - therapy is a must. AA**

3. **'Addiction' includes a whole range of pleasure-seeking behaviors.**

Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) Emotions Anonymous(EA) Marijuana Anonymous(MA) Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
Sexaholics Anonymous(SA) Overeaters Anonymous (OA)
Gamblers Anonymous (GA)

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1. Depressants (drugs that slow and calm neural activity):

Alcohol - Impairs judgement and inhibitions and prevents recent events from going into long-term memory.

Also, people who are made to believe they are drinking alcohol exhibited less sexual restraints.

Barbiturates (tranquilizers, sleeping pills)- this drug is similar to alcohol because it lowers activity in the sympathetic nervous system. Large doses of barbiturates can cause death. *Jack tripper*

Opiates - (Morphine and Heroin)
Opium and its derivatives depress brain activity and bring pleasure with addiction and may ultimately lead to death.
The pain of withdrawal accompanies these drugs because the brain stops producing its own natural endorphins when flooded with artificial opiates.

Jack Tripper

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2. Stimulants (drugs that speed up and excite neural activity):

Caffeine, nicotine, cocaine, and amphetamines -

Increase heart and breathing rates. After the drug wears off, the user will experience a "crash" that involves moodiness, and even depression.

Cocaine is the most powerful stimulant in that it blocks re-uptake of dopamine neurotransmitter. Thus, dopamine remains in the synapse to intensify moods.

Ecstasy-

this drug excites serotonin-releasing neurons but also prevents the reuptake of the neurotransmitter.

Increased serotonin enhances mood. Long term effects appear to include the blocking and destruction of the serotonin-releasing receptors thereby causing depression that is untreatable. There may be other permanent effects on mood and chemical imbalances.

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3. Hallucinogens (Psychedelics) Drugs that create distorted perceptions and thoughts without real stimuli:

LSD (PCP) - "acid" that makes you see shapes, colors, and have out-of-body experiences accompanied by various emotions.

Marijuana - Drug containing an organic compound called THC that can cause relaxation, a euphoric high, and increases sensitivity to colors, tastes, and sounds. THC and its by-products remain in the body for a month or more. Adverse effects include impaired judgment, lung damage, disrupted memory, decreasing reaction time and lowered sex hormone levels.

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Read...

Near-death experience is a state of consciousness reported after being close to death. These same experiences, such as seeing bright tunnels, are often experienced from LSD (drug hallucination) or oxygen deprivation.

Dualism presumes that the mind and body are two distinct parts that usually separate after death. Monism, however, presumes that the mind and body are just different aspects of the same thing and that we cannot exist without our bodies.

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Why do some people continue to use psychoactive drugs?

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