

CYCHLORPHINE

What You Need To Know

What Is Cychlorphine?

Cychlorphine is a very strong synthetic (lab-made) opioid that may be more potent than fentanyl and can cause death. It is illicitly manufactured and has been found in powders, counterfeit tablets (made to look like prescription medication), rocks or crystals, and liquids. There are currently no test strips that work to detect cychlorphine.

- **The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner has identified cychlorphine involved in overdose death.**
- **Naloxone, a lifesaving opioid antagonist medication, reverses a cychlorphine overdose if given in time. Multiple doses may be necessary.**
- **Fentanyl test strips still help people know whether fentanyl is present, but a negative strip does not mean a drug is safe.**

Cychlorphine Effects

Cychlorphine is an opioid drug, like fentanyl and heroin. Opioids reduce pain and can cause a high, but they can also slow breathing — and in an overdose, breathing can stop completely. When breathing stops, lack of oxygen can damage the brain, heart, and lungs, and cause coma and death. Other adverse effects include nausea and vomiting, sweating, confusion, and constipation. The overdose risk increases when opioids are used with other drugs, such as alcohol, sedatives, painkillers, illicit street drugs, or prescription drugs. Cychlorphine is particularly dangerous due to its strength, where a very small amount can cause someone to stop breathing. It is also being mixed into the illicit drug supply without people knowing.

Cychlorphine, A Type of Orphine

N-Propionitrile Chlorphine (also known as cychlorphine), belongs to a group of drugs called orphines, which were first created in a pharmaceutical laboratory in the 1960s during research into new pain medicines. Orphines are chemically different from both fentanyl and nitazenes so test strips don't currently detect them. They were never developed or approved as medicines. Orphines can cause someone to stop breathing, leading to death if not reversed with naloxone.

Is cychlorphine Legal?

No. Cychlorphine is not legal and has no approved medical use in the United States or any other country. It is classified as a controlled substance in many countries, including the U.S., where the Drug Enforcement Administration placed it in Schedule I in August 2026. Cychlorphine has never been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for any medical use.

What should I do if someone I know has taken cychlorphine?

If someone is having trouble breathing or is hard to wake up, immediately call 911. If administered quickly enough during an overdose, naloxone may reverse a cychlorphine overdose but repeated doses of medication may be required. For less serious exposures (e.g., alert patients without depressed breathing), contact the Poison Control online tool or by phone at 1-800-222-1222, open 24/7. Naloxone nasal spray is available at Community Health Stations located throughout the County, http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/communityhealthstation.

Visit RecoverLA.org for step-by-step information on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and provide rescue breaths.



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If you or someone you know are going to use illicit drugs, please remember the following:

1. Do not use alone. Use with a friend or someone who can call 911 and administer naloxone in the event of an overdose. If you are alone, call Never Use Alone at 1-800-484-3731. Someone will stay on the line and call for help if you stop responding.
2. Start low and go slow: a very tiny amount of cychlorphine can cause someone to immediately stop breathing.
3. Do not mix drugs. Using opioids together with alcohol, sedatives, or sleeping medications sharply increases the risk of overdose.
4. In an overdose, administer naloxone and call 911. Multiple doses may be necessary.
5. Drug samples can be tested for cychlorphine in about 15-20 minutes and this testing is available for free through http://www.drugcheckingla.com.

For more information:

https://www.samhsa.gov
https://www.dea.gov
https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/emerging-drug-trends
More information about public health services related to substance use in LA County is accessible through the mobile-friendly Recover-LA platform: www.RecoverLA.org
Medi-Cal members can find substance use treatment services through the resources below:

- Substance Abuse Service Helpline: 1-844-804-7500
- Services and Bed Availability Tool: http://SUDHelpLA.org