

medetomidine

what is it & why does it matter



Adverse Effects

- Deep state of unconsciousness
- Respiratory depression
- Cardiac & Circulatory depression
- Dry mouth
- Dilated pupils
- Hypothermia-low body temperature
- Muscle spasms
- Low heart rate
- High blood pressure followed by prolonged low blood pressure
- Peripheral vasoconstriction - turns skin blue; can mask actual cyanosis (lack of oxygen within the body)

If you think there might be medetomidine in your supply, follow universal precautions!

1. ALWAYS CARRY NALOXONE
2. Try not to use alone
3. Start low & go slow. You can always do more but you can't do less.

Developed by: Jen Shinefeld M.S. & Shannon Ashe, MSW, LCSW 02/2025

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Responding to an overdose involving medetomidine

- Though medetomidine is not an opioid and will not respond to naloxone, it has been found in combination with fentanyl and therefore, if breathing is not present or is labored including gasping, snoring, shallow breaths etc., **the use of naloxone is still recommended.**
- **Rescue breathing is essential.**
- **Utilize the rescue position.**
- **Management of body temperature**
 - **use of cooling measures like wet paper towels**
- **Encourage hydration to reduce risk of kidney damage.**

Medetomidine: Summary

- 01** Found in the Philadelphia drug supply in April of 2024.
- 02** Similar to xylazine but has a longer duration of action.
- 03** Causes muscle twitches & hallucinations which can act as a red flag for the presence of medetomidine in your supply.
- 04** Hydration & managing body temperature as well as oxygenation are essential.
- 05** Follow universal precautions!