

KETAMINE BULLETS

Ketamine is a fast-acting general anesthetic similar in structure and action to phencyclidine (PCP). Acting as an antagonist (blocker) at the NMDA receptor, ketamine has numerous psychological manifestations in addition to its anesthetic action that have limited its use in the clinical setting. Termed a “dissociative” anesthetic, ketamine selectively interrupts the associative centers in the brain, commonly resulting in psychedelic and often uncontrollable hallucinations. Interestingly, it is these unwanted side effects that are in demand by the substance abuse community. The isolated abuse of the late 80’s and early 90’s has grown rapidly in recent years prompting ketamine’s inclusion on the DEA’s list of “club and date rape” drugs, resulting in its scheduling as a class III controlled substance in 1999. While the long-term physical impairment of abuse is still under investigation, rapid and substantial psychological addiction has been noted.

Short Term Effects:

- Dream-like states
- Vivid hallucinations and imagery
- Confusion and delirium
- Increased sociability
- Hypertension and cardiac arrhythmias
- Skeletal muscle rigidity, nystagmus and robotic-like movements
- Inability to speak or move voluntarily
- Nausea and vomiting
- Near death experiences
- Loss of consciousness
- Resistance to pain and exertion
- Fearful episodes

Long Term Effects

- Irrational behavior
- Neuroses and mental disorders
- Pain and muscle damage at injection site
- Paranoia and egocentrism
- Possible flashbacks
- Psychological addiction

Adverse Reactions:

- Laryngospasm and airway obstruction
- Potentiation of the effects of alcohol, barbiturates, GHB, nitrous oxide and opiates
- Apnea and respiratory depression
- Seizures