



Call the Illinois Opioid Helpline at:
1-833-2-FINDHELP

In no event will the City of Chicago be held responsible for, and the City of Chicago disclaims all liability arising out of and in connection with, providing xylazine test strips and information about their use.

Xylazine is an animal sedative not approved for use in humans. Xylazine is NOT an opioid so it does not respond to naloxone (Narcan). You should still give naloxone if someone is overdosing, even if xylazine is involved, because the naloxone will reverse the effects of any opioid involved in the overdose.

Signs of an overdose include: slow, shallow breathing, choking, limp body, pale/cold/blue skin, falling asleep or lack of consciousness, and very small pupils. If you think someone is overdosing, call 911 immediately and administer naloxone (Narcan) if available.

Xylazine test strips are not 100% accurate, and can produce false positives.

While xylazine test strips may identify if the drug is present in the sample being tested, the test strips do not show the amount, purity, or potency of the xylazine found in the sample. Lidocaine, an anesthetic sometimes found in drug samples, can produce a false positive with the xylazine test strips. If you suspect that lidocaine is causing a false positive, you may dilute 5mg of substance in more water (30ml). This may help rule out false positives due to lidocaine, but this is not guaranteed. No drug use is 100% safe.

You should still give naloxone if someone is overdosing, even if xylazine is involved.

Xylazine use can cause severe skin wounds that require complicated wound care. Wounds may become large and have dead skin and tissue. They may be at the site of injection, at sites not associated with injection, and can be found in people who do not inject at all. These wounds can become infected and may not heal well or quickly and may lead to amputation/ surgical removal of the affected area. If you have wounds associated with xylazine use, see a doctor immediately. Do not pick at the skin, and keep wounds as clean as possible with soap and water.

You may be able to feel the effects of xylazine 1-2 minutes after consuming, and effects can last 4+ hours. Xylazine may cause heavy sedation, lowered heart rate and breathing rate, feelings of dizziness or confusion. Xylazine withdrawal can last several days to weeks, and the primary symptom is severe anxiety.

Find Narcan in Chicago here:
bit.ly/FindNarcan



Drug checking with Xylazine test strips

A step-by-step guide

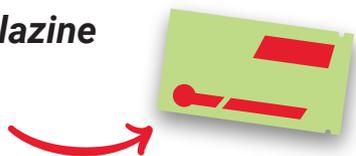


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A step-by-step guide

How to use a xylazine test strip

This is a xylazine test strip



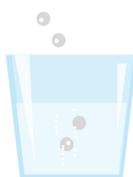
- 1 Add 10mg of substance to 5ml of water.

These test strips can only test for xylazine in opioids. Testing other substances may result in false positives/negatives.



You can use a 30ml ketchup cup like the one in this kit.

- 2 Mix the powder into the water until it is completely dissolved.



If you are testing something that is not powder, crush it first.

- 3 Hold the solid red end of the test strip and dip the other end in the water for about 10-15 seconds.



- 4 Take the strip out of the water and lay it on a flat surface. Wait for about 5 minutes.



- 5 Look at the strip under bright light. Even very faint red lines count!

ONE (1) red line = XYLAZINE PRESENT

TWO (2) red lines = NO xylazine present

Check the strip within 10 minutes of testing. Throw the strip away when done.



Interpreting the results

+ Positive test



One line means xylazine detected.

- Negative test



Two lines means no xylazine detected.

? Inconclusive / Invalid test



The top red line (closest to the solid red) should always show up on the strip. If it doesn't, the test is invalid. Stirring or wetting above the solid line may result in an invalid test.

Xylazine test strips only tell you if xylazine is present in the sample tested. They do not tell you **how much** xylazine is present.

A negative test result does not mean the substance is safe. Xylazine test strips are not 100% accurate.

If you think someone is overdosing, call 911 immediately and administer naloxone if available.



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