

What is their effect on the mind?

Depressants used therapeutically do what they are prescribed for:

- To induce sleep, relieve anxiety and muscle spasms, and prevent seizures

They also:

- Cause amnesia (leaving no memory of events that occur while under the influence), reduce reaction time, impair mental functioning and judgment, and cause confusion

Long-term use of depressants produces physical and psychological dependence and tolerance.

What is their effect on the body?

Some depressants can relax the muscles.

Unwanted physical effects include:

- Slurred speech, loss of motor coordination, weakness, headache, lightheadedness, blurred vision, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, low blood pressure, and slowed breathing

Prolonged use of depressants can lead to physical dependence even at doses recommended for medical treatment. Unlike barbiturates, large doses of benzodiazepines are rarely fatal unless combined with other drugs or alcohol. But unlike the withdrawal syndrome seen with most other drugs of abuse, withdrawal from depressants can be life threatening.

What is their legal status in the United States?

Most depressants are controlled substances that range from Schedule I to Schedule IV under the Controlled Substances Act, depending on their risk for abuse and whether they currently have an accepted medical use. Many of the depressants have FDA-approved medical uses. In the United States, Rohypnol® and Quaaludes® are not manufactured or legally marketed, and have no accepted medical use.



Klonopin 5mg tablet