



Drug Fact Sheet

LSD

WHAT IS LSD?

LSD is a potent hallucinogen that has a high potential for abuse and currently has no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?

LSD is produced in clandestine laboratories in the United States.

What are common street names?

Common names for LSD include:

- Acid, Dots, Mellow Yellow, and Window Pane

What does it look like?

LSD is an odorless and colorless substance with a slightly bitter taste. LSD is available in saturated absorbent paper (e.g., blotter paper, divided into small, decorated squares, with each square representing one dose), tablets or “micro dots,” saturated sugar cubes, or in a liquid form.

What is its effect on the body?

The physical effects include:

- Dilated pupils, higher body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, sweating, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, dry mouth, and tremors

How is it abused?

LSD is abused orally.

What is its effect on the mind?

During the first hour after ingestion, users may experience visual changes with extreme changes in mood. While hallucinating, the user may suffer impaired depth and time perception accompanied by distorted perception of the shape and size of objects, movements, colors, sound, touch, and the user's own body image.



Image by Erik Fenderson

LSD blotter paper with match for size comparison

The ability to make sound judgments and see common dangers is impaired, making the user susceptible to personal injury. It is possible for users to suffer acute anxiety and depression after an LSD “trip.” Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder, which may include fragmentary recurrences of certain aspects of the drug experience or “flashbacks” have been reported days, and even months, after taking the last dose.

What are its overdose effects?

Longer, more intense “trip” episodes, psychosis, and possible death

Which drugs cause similar effects?

LSD's effects are similar to other hallucinogens, such as PCP, mescaline, and peyote.

What is its legal status in the United States?

LSD is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I substances have a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.