

# HEROIN

A central nervous system depressant, heroin is an addictive drug with profound physical and psychological effects. Used intravenously there is risk of infection and disease (hepatitis, AIDS) due to unsterile/shared needle use.

*Signs of Intoxication: Euphoria, constricted pupils, flushing of the face, drowsiness, respiratory depression, nausea.*

*Withdrawal Symptoms: Acute insomnia, flu-like symptoms with weakness, chills, sweating and muscle spasms; loss of appetite tremors and panic.*

## EFFECT OF CHRONIC USE

- *Mind & Behavior:* Mental clouding. Alters emotions leading to bouts of anxiety, sadness, depression.
- *Central Nervous System:* Depresses activity. Pain sensation consciously perceived but not interpreted as pain.
- *Heart & Blood:* Depresses heart activity. Low blood pressure possible cardiac failure.
- *Lung:* Depresses breathing, pneumonia, lung abscess.
- *Liver:* Enlarged liver, liver dysfunction, high incidence of hepatitis with unsterile or sharp needle use.
- *Kidneys:* Toxicity, kidney failure, inhibits urine voiding.
- *Bone & Muscles:* Infections including inflammation of the bone marrow, adjacent bone tissue and muscles.
- *Immune System:* May depress the body's ability to fight infection.
- *Fetus:* Premature or stillbirth, withdrawal symptoms in infants, mental and behavioral abnormality, increased incidence of sudden infant death.

*Other Risks: Weight loss, edema (excess watery fluid), loss of consciousness, coma; potentially fatal.*