

WHAT IS TIK?

Tik is an odourless, crystal-like substance. It is a stimulant that speeds up the functioning of the vital organs, e.g. the heart. It is viciously addictive and is exceedingly harmful to the Central Nervous System.

HOW IS TIK USED?

It is usually smoked in a light bulb or a glass pipe called a “lolly”. The crystals are heated in the bulb/pipe and inhaled. However, it can also be swallowed, injected or sniffed, for an immediate, intense “high”. The usual method of abuse is to “crash” or “binge”, which simply means the user uses it, goes into withdrawal then uses a larger quantity to top the withdrawal symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

- Unusual energy
- Weight loss
- Aggression
- Sleep problems



AND THE EFFECTS?

- Loss of concentration
- Decreased appetite
- Memory loss
- Increase in sex drive
- Increased confidence

Long-term Effects include:

- Risk of addiction
- Sexual dysfunction
- Psychosis
- Violence
- Risk of suicide

DANGERS

Pleasurable feelings come from an increase in a brain chemical (dopamine), which controls the feelings of pleasure. The body then adapts to the increased levels of dopamine, and the effects of Tik develop quickly.

Therefore users must take larger and larger doses of the drug to enjoy the same pleasurable feelings. This makes the drug exceedingly addictive. And dose levels can be extremely dangerous or even fatal due to the unpredictable nature of the drug!

The University of Stellenbosh, in a study paper on the drug, has revealed that sustained use of Tik can end up with shrunken brains, and “holes” forming where brain matter used to be.

The loss of brain tissue – or brain matter – results in the “holes” being filled with fluid.

Teenagers, whose brain is in an extremely vulnerable stage of development, are more likely to end up with chronic mental illness.

In tests carried out on the severity of the effects arising from the use of Tik, it was noted that even after being clean for 14 months; the damage to the brain was still evident. Because of extreme pressure on psychiatric beds and treatment, psychiatrists cannot treat Tik patients properly. All they can do is to stabilize and discharge users as swiftly as possible so as to treat more urgent cases. The result is that the user is discharged and returns to the family/community/ a ready supply of the drug once again. Upon getting hooked again, the addict again returns for a quick-fix treatment, and the vicious circle starts all over again.

The net result is:

Problems with clarity of thought, a low IQ and poor memory capacity.

Is it worth the gamble?



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THE GRUESOME FACTS ABOUT TIK



Published in the interest of a more
sustainable, healthy lifestyle
rather than being a
captive of drugs!

