

Lady K



The 1960s were the heyday of psychedelia, cocaine flourished in the 1970s and 1980s, the 1990s saw a lot of Ecstasy pills being popped, and today you can bet that the second decade of the third millennium will be powdered with traces of lines of ketamine, which is now reshaping nightlife and figuring in the world of culture.

The drug, mostly called K and Special K, is often referred to as “a horse anesthetic.” It has in fact been around for about 50 years (after having first been synthesized in 1962 by American scientist Calvin Stevens) and was momentarily popular in the 1990s, but it is only during this past decade and mainly in recent years has it really flourished; not only in the extent of its use but also in the total change in the user’s profile. Common or street names: K, Special K, K2, Vitamin K, Super K, Super C, Lady K, Ket, Kit Kat, Ketaset, Ketaject, Jet, Super Acid, Green, Purple, Mauve, Super Acid, Special LA Coke, Cat Tranquilizers, Cat Valium. If in the past it was the province of fearless cognoscenti, today many mainstream young people are starting to discover a party drug tailor-made for the current generation: It is relatively inexpensive, has a strong effect and enters and leaves the body rapidly. But they are ignoring the risks the substance poses, both physical and psychological.

In Berlin, for more than a decade now, ketamine has been an integral part of the average party animal’s nightlife and in recent years it has also gotten star billing in England, where the number of users under the age of 24 has doubled and is continuing to rise steeply, especially among college students. These kinds of numbers show up in other European capitals as well, and the trend is featuring in the United States and in Israel, too, though still to a lesser extent. What is Ketamine?

Ketamine (Ketalar) is a dissociative general anesthetic that has been available by prescription in the U.S. since the 1970s for human and veterinary uses. It has also

been used for pain control in burn therapy, battlefield injuries, and in children who cannot use other anesthetics due to side effects or allergies. Pharmacologically, ketamine is a noncompetitive N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist, but at higher doses may also bind to the opioid mu and sigma receptors. It is related to **phencyclidine (PCP)**, but has less than 10 percent of the potency of pure PCP.¹

Ketamine has become a drug of abuse and recreational drug. Ketamine for recreational purposes is sourced illegally via the diversion of the prescription products. Ketamine is available in a clear liquid or off-white powder form. Ketamine may be injected intravenously or intramuscularly, consumed orally, or added to **marijuana** and smoked.² In the U.S., ketamine (Ketalar) is in DEA schedule III drug under the Controlled Substances Act; however, it is not classified as a narcotic.¹

Abuse of ketamine can lead to powerful visual hallucinations that are intensified by environmental stimuli. When higher doses of ketamine are abused, it is reported to produce an “out-of-body”, “K-hole” or “near-death” hallucinogenic experience, often reported as terrifying. More recently, ketamine has become popular in the U.S. as a “club drug”, often used by teens and young adults at dance “rave” parties. Ketamine has also been used in instances of “date rape” due to its strong side effect of confusion and/or amnesia.²

Ketamine Health Hazards & Side Effects

Tolerance can build to the effects of ketamine over time, requiring more of the drug to reach the same level of effect. Reports suggest that the dissociative effect may disappear over time. Dissociative means that drug alters the users perception of light and sound and produces feelings of detachment from one's self and surroundings. Binge use, where the user indulges in the drug in excess amounts in a short period of time has been reported, as well.¹

Other reported side effects include:

- lethargy
- delirium
- sedation
- chest pain
- hallucinations/terrors
- respiratory depression
- elevated heart rate
- loss of coordination
- muscle rigidity
- violent behavior
- amnesia
- seizures
- coma
- death from overdose (rare)

A 2011 clinical review of over 110 cases describes lower urinary tract toxicity, also known as ketamine-induced vesicopathy, in association with chronic ketamine abusers. The syndrome results in symptoms such as urge incontinence (strong, sudden need to urinate due to bladder spasms or contractions), decreased bladder volume, detrusor muscle overactivity, and blood in the urine. Stopping ketamine use is the only effective treatment to decrease symptoms and prevent failure of the kidney function.³

Withdrawal may occur after chronic, extended use of ketamine. Withdrawal symptoms may include chills, sweats, excitation, hallucinations, teary eyes, and drug cravings.

With an overdose of ketamine, emergency care, such as 911, should be contacted immediately. There is no antidote for ketamine. Overdose situations with ketamine are treated with symptomatic and supportive care in the hospital setting. **Benzodiazepines** may be used if needed for seizures or excitation. Respiratory support is rarely needed, but assisted ventilation or supplemental oxygen may be required.

Extent of Use

The only known source of ketamine is via diversion of prescription products. There have been reports of veterinarian offices being robbed for their ketamine stock. Also, according to the DEA, a major U.S. source of illicit ketamine arrives across the border from Mexico.²

Widespread ketamine abuse began in the late 1970s as subcultures (e.g., mind explorers, new agers, spiritualists) experimented with the drug. Ketamine may be injected intravenously or intramuscularly, used intranasally (“snorted”), consumed orally, or added to marijuana and smoked. In social situations, illicit ketamine is most frequently used orally or intranasally.

As reported in the 2011 Monitoring the Future Survey, the annual prevalence of ketamine use in grades 8, 10, and 12 in 2011 was 0.8%, 1.2%, and 1.7%, respectively. These rates have fallen since the early 2000’s, when rates were roughly 1.6%, 2.1%, and 2.5% in grades 8, 10, and 12, respectively.⁴

Illicit production of ketamine usually involves evaporating the liquid from the diverted injectable solution to produce a powder that is formed into tablets or sold as a powder for intranasal use. Injection of ketamine produces the fastest response, with effects occurring in 1 to 5 minutes; “snorting” takes roughly 5 to 15 minutes; and oral consumption between 5 and 30 minutes. The effects of ketamine abuse typically last 1 to 2 hours, but the users judgement, senses and coordination may be affected for up to 24 hours or longer.¹

Doses of 1 to 2 milligram per kilogram of body weight produce intense hallucinogenic and dissociative effects for roughly one hour. Sensations may include floating, stimulation and visual effects. Larger doses may result in the “k-hole”, where users are near full sedation and is said to mimic an “out-of-body” or “near-death”

experience. High doses may dangerously reduce breathing, lead to muscles spasms or weakness, dizziness, balance difficulty, impaired vision, slurred speech, nausea and vomiting, and severe confusion.

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pecial K is one of the many street names for the anesthetic Ketamine. Ketamine is primarily a veterinary tranquilizer but some human doctors still use it as a pre-surgery anesthetic. According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse, Special K](#), when taken recreationally, is a dissociative drug. Although Special K is not physically addictive, it is definitely psychologically addictive. This makes Special K addiction much harder to break. In order to understand Special K as a drug, you need to know what it is and what its effects on a person’s body, health, and life are.

We can help you find treatment for addiction. Call [800-601-3889](tel:800-601-3889) toll free anytime.

What is Special K Addiction?

Special K addiction is the uncontrollable desire to use the drug [Special K](#). Special K is a highly addictive dissociative drug. While it is often used in both veterinary and human medicine, it is also used for date rape, escape, and many other recreational purposes. The drug itself has no legal use other than as an anesthetic. Despite this, many people choose to use it at raves, clubs, parties, and at home.

Side Effects of Special K Use

Part of the reason why people use Special K is the fact that it is rapid onset. The pleasant effects come on very quickly after you use it. These pleasant effects are:

- dreaminess,
- floating sensation,
- numbness,
- out of body feelings,
- hallucinations, and
- perceived insight into the world, universe, and life.

Unfortunately, these pleasant side effects are often accompanied by unpleasant side effect. These [unpleasant side effects](#) are:



Ketamine can have long-lasting harmful effects. Treatment can help you overcome.

- strange heart rate patterns,
- poor vision,,
- poor concentration,
- nausea,
- amnesia,
- elevated heart rate,
- high blood pressure,
- delirium,
- rash,
- depression,
- seizures,
- confusion, and

- vomiting.

These effects last between one and five hours. This length depends on the amount use, level of tolerance, and frequency of use. Most people who are addicted have a tolerance making the high off Special K shorter.

In addition to these short term effects Special K also has long term effects. These long term effects are:

- permanent memory loss,
- anxiety leading to anxiety disorders,
- night terrors,
- bad dreams and realistic nightmares,
- post traumatic stress disorder,
- loss of consciousness,
- mental and mood disorders,
- depression,
- increased blood pressure requiring treatment,
- neurosis, and
- flashbacks.

Although some of these long term issues are treatable, some are more permanent.

Signs of Addiction

There are ways to tell if someone you know is [addicted to Special K](#). Some things to check for if you suspect someone is addicted to Special K are:

- Physical symptoms such as:
 - slurred speech,
 - hallucinations,
 - paranoia,
 - confusion,
 - sniffing,
 - lack of coordination,
 - elevated pulse,
- Social symptoms such as:
 - changes or loss of friends,
 - new friends who also exhibit signs of addiction, and
 - changes in places they go.
- Monetary symptoms such as:
 - loss job,
 - being frequently late to work,
 - borrowing money, and
 - stealing money.
- behavioral symptoms such as:
 - mood changes,
 - anxiety,
 - difficulty speaking,
 - decreased attention span,
 - leaving without reason,
 - being secretive, and
 - other erratic behaviors.

These are not the only indications that someone is using Special K but they are indications that something wrong. Because Special K can cause serious psychological damage, it is important to bring the possibility of drug addiction to their attention. Some people may be addicted and not fully realize it.

Special K and Other Drugs

Special K is very dangerous when combined with other drugs and alcohol. Anything that is a respiratory depressant or raises the heart rate is dangerous when taken with Special K. The potential for combined effects is very high with Special K. This is how many people overdose on this drug. The combination of Special K and other drugs proves too much for the body and something gives out. It is like this with most of the psychedelic drugs.

Overdose

Although Special K rarely kills people but it does have the potential for overdose. An overdose of Special K leads to deep sedation, loss of control, and psychosis. There are people who are physically still alive but are mentally broken, because of a Special K overdose. It is possible to go on the trip and never come back.

This overdose happens whether you are a first time user or not. It can also happen with small amounts. Most of the time a [Special K overdose](#) happens when someone uses Special K and another drug such as alcohol or an opiate.

Is Special K Illegal?

Although vets and hospitals use Special K, it is illegal for anyone who is not at a hospital or affiliated with a veterinary practice to possess it. Therefore, if you have it and you are not one of these two things, police can arrest you for illicit drug possession. According to the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#), Special K (ketamine) is a schedule III non-narcotic drug and has been since 1999. It is illegal and falls under the Controlled Substances Act.

Call [800-601-3889](tel:800-601-3889) toll free anytime for help finding ketamine addiction treatment.

Is there Help for Special K Addiction?

Yes, there is [help for a Special K addiction](#). There are inpatient, outpatient, and combined program