International Journal of Advanced Research in Arts, Science, Engineering & Management (IJARASEM)

| ISSN: 2395-7852 | www.ijarasem.com | Bimonthly, Peer Reviewed & Referred Journal |

| Volume 5, Issue 5, September 2018 |

Abuse of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide Drug by Youth

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ABSTRACT: LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) is a synthetic (man-made) drug that has been abused for its hallucinogenic properties since the 1960s. If consumed in a sufficiently large dose, LSD produces delusions and visual hallucinations that distort the user's sense of time and identity. LSD typically is sold as a liquid (often packaged in small bottles designed to hold breath freshening drops) or applied to blotter paper, sugar cubes, gelatin squares, and tablets. LSD generally is taken by mouth. The drug is colorless and odorless but has a slightly bitter taste. Individuals of all ages use LSD. Data reported in the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse indicate that an estimated 20.2 million U.S. residents aged 12 and older used LSD at least once in their lifetime. The survey also revealed that many teenagers and young adults use LSD--742,000 individuals aged 12 to 17 and 4.5 million individuals aged 18 to 25 used the drug at least once.LSD use among high school students is a particular concern. More than 8 percent of high school seniors in the United States used the drug at least once in their lifetime, and nearly 4 percent used the drug in the past year, according to the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future Survey.

KEYWORDS: LSD, hallucinogenic, drug abuse, delusions, synthetic, mam-made, bitter taste

I.INTRODUCTION

The effects associated with LSD use are unpredictable and depend upon the amount taken, the surroundings in which the drug is used, and the user's personality, mood, and expectations. Some LSD users experience a feeling of despair, while others report terrifying fears--of losing control, going insane, or dying. Some users have suffered fatal accidents while under the influence of LSD.[1]

LSD users often have flashbacks, during which certain aspects of their LSD experience recur even though they have stopped taking the drug. In addition, LSD users may develop long-lasting psychoses, such as schizophrenia or severe depression.LSD is not considered an addictive drug--that is, it does not produce compulsive drug-seeking behavior as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine do. However, LSD users may develop tolerance to the drug, meaning that they must consume progressively larger doses of the drug in order to continue to experience the hallucinogenic effects that they seek. The most common names for LSD are acid, boomers, and yellow sunshine. [2]

Street Terms for LSD

Back breaker	Elvis	Pane
Battery acid	Loony toons	Superman
Doses	Lucy in the sky with diamonds	Window pane
Dots		Zen

LSD is illegal. LSD is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I drugs, which include heroin and MDMA, have a high potential for abuse and serve no legitimate medical purpose.[3]

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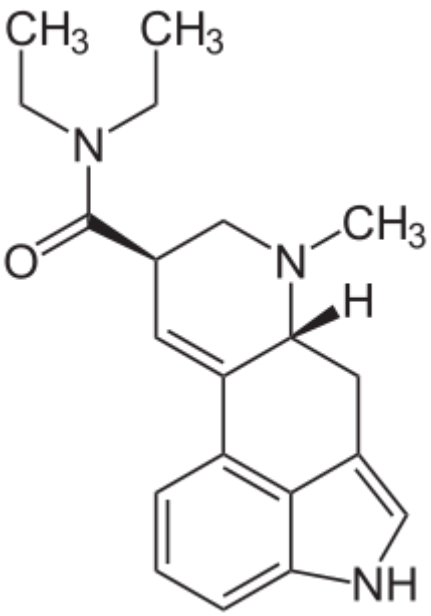
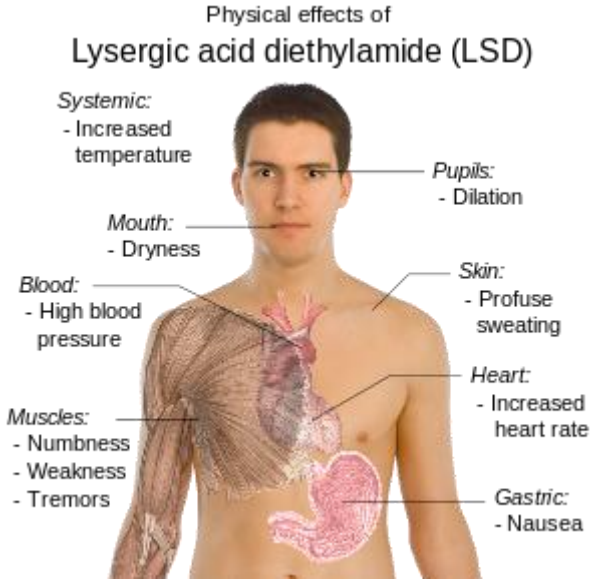


LSD is a hallucinogenic drug that is manufactured in illicit laboratories all across the world. At one point, the drug was used in medical research, but much of the drug's use is now considered illicit and illegal. Since the drug was once part of the medical community, however, researchers know quite a bit about how the drug works, and how people who take the drug might feel while they're under the influence.[4]

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, LSD works by disturbing the function of cells in the brain and spinal cord, amending the production and use of a specific chemical used for sensory perception, muscle control and behavior.[5]



When these systems are amended, LSD and teenage brain responses can cause radically transformed versions of reality, which might include:

- Visual or auditory hallucinations
- Ability to "hear" colors or "see" sounds

- A sensation of slowed time, or the feeling that time is passing quickly
- A feeling of connectedness with a higher power[6]

In the past, an experience like this was considered part of growing up, and native cultures often provided young men with hallucinogenic drugs to give them a peek into the world of the divine that might be just outside of their normal perception. Young people who study ancient cultures may be tempted to try LSD, teens believe that they're just tapping into a valuable tradition that could help them transition from youth to adulthood. Unfortunately, teens who take LSD in the modern culture are likely having a very different experience, when compared to the experiences of people who take the drug in a native context.[7]

II.DISCUSSION

According to the National Drug Intelligence Center, roughly 20 million Americans aged 12 years or older reported to use LSD at least once in their lifetime. Furthermore, over 740,000 people from the age of 12 to 17 and 4.5 million people from the age of 18 to 25 have used LSD at least once in their lives. As is commonly the case, peer pressure or the need for teens to feel "cool" is often the reason a teenager might use LSD. Very often a teen might be offered a "hit of acid" at a party, and feel the need to try it either to please their friends or perhaps out of curiosity. In other instances, teens use LSD to feel a release from reality, or escape the pressures of everyday life.[8] Additionally, LSD has obtained an unfortunate reputation as being the "trippy" drug of choice due to how the drug was sensationalized during the hippy movement. Some teens might want to emulate that lifestyle, which is why they may use LSD. Since LSD is produced illicitly, it comes with no dosing information or warning documentation. Teen users may have no idea how the drug was produced, and they might not know how much of the drug they should take and how the drug might impact them. Some teens may start off their LSD experimentation by taking in massive doses of the drug, flooding their bodies with all sorts of chemicals and feeling very intense reactions as a result.[9]

The feelings of panic that might bubble up when a user feels overwhelmed might be augmented by the presence of LSD, and in no time at all, users might begin to head down a "bad trip," in which they experience:

- Terrifying hallucinations
- Rapid heart rates
- A sense of impending doom
- Persistent fears about the health of others
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Confusion[10]

At one moment, the user might feel healthy and happy. At the next moment, that user might be back in a hallucinating state, feeling terror. Experts aren't quite sure what causes this problem, and they're similarly unsure of how to help people who deal with flashbacks. It's a risk that users of this drug just take.[11]

III.RESULTS

When talking about teens and LSD, it's important to identify the signs in order to determine if, in fact, a teen is using. [21] The most obvious signs are behavioral, but there are some physical signs a teen is abusing LSD. Here are some common signs to look for when determining if a teen is on LSD:[12]

- Excessive sweating, feverishness and/or chills
- Vomiting, nausea and/or lack of appetite
- Dilated pupils
- Elevated heart rate
- Trouble concentrating
- Incoherent and/or unintelligible speech
- Odd "loopy" behavior
- Panic attacks, paranoia, anxiety

- Extreme highs and lows in mood
- Inability to carry a conversation and/or easily distracted
- Difficulty making choices
- Unexplained euphoria and/or despondency [13]

The first step to take is to learn as much as possible about teens and LSD, such the effects, and treatment. You should also make every effort to discuss the issue with your teen. [20] Having a mature, honest conversation with your teen about drug use might not always be possible because they are often reluctant to talk to parents about such matters. This is when you should consider seeking professional help. Very often, a teen is more likely to talk to a counselor about their LSD use, which can lead to better outcomes for your teen.[14]

IV.CONCLUSIONS

There are no specific medications that can be used to treat an LSD addiction, and there are no shots or chemicals that could be injected in order to make the need disappear. Instead, teen boys must learn more about how to use the power of their minds to keep their cravings for LSD at bay.[15]

They learn how to respect their bodies, and they might be less inclined to use drugs in the future. As a teen boy, LSD abuse might also require conventional therapies in which they resolve conflict with their families and learn to express their desires clearly and plainly. As an adolescent boy, LSD might be tempting to try out.[16] However, because of the damage it can cause during this highly developmental stage of life, LSD can have devastating results. If you suspect your teenage boy is abusing LSD, please consider getting him treatment. When you give your child treatment, you are giving him the gift of a happier, more stable life. [17] Moreover, if there is an issue with LSD, getting him treatment may also help your teenager avoid complications or addictions to other substances down the line in the future.[18] In many cases, teenagers may turn to LSD as a means of escape from emotional unrest. Treatment can be the healthy substitute for LSD or any other substance, because it helps your child develop coping skills that will ensure them a bright, hopeful life well into adulthood. [19]

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