
Cychlorphine – A “new” synthetic opioid circulating in Montreal

The Direction régionale de santé publique du CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DRSP de Montréal) is concerned about the risks of overdoses and deaths associated with the use of a synthetic opioid different from those usually circulating: cychlorphine. This opioid has been linked to overdoses in recent weeks in Montreal.

This substance has been detected in several forms (fentanyl powders, counterfeit tablets — e.g. fake oxycodone tablets, fake hydromorphone tablets). The tools (e.g. test strips) currently available to test the content of substances do not detect cychlorphine. Few data are available on its toxicity and effects.

This reinforces the importance for users not to use alone and for those accompanying them to have naloxone and know how to use it.

Regardless of the substance consumed, naloxone is indicated when a person :

- **Has difficulty breathing, makes a snore-like gurgling noise or is not breathing at all.**
- **Reacts minimally or not at all to noise and pain.**

The person may also present cyanosis (bluish lips and fingernails) and miosis (pinpoint pupils). These symptoms are likely to progress to **cardiorespiratory arrest**. In case of overdose, call 911 immediately for a rapid and effective intervention and administer naloxone if available. Hospital care may be required for naloxone administration under medical supervision or for airway management.

The DRSP de Montréal urges street-drug users to be cautious, **regardless of consumption method** (inhalation, injection, oral or other). It also encourages clinicians and care providers to increase overdose prevention interventions targeting users in the following ways:

1. Inform street drug users of the risks of consuming cychlorphine unintentionally.

2. Provide counselling on safer drug use practices:

- **Avoid using alone** (or, notify someone and stay in contact when using, e.g. **National Overdose Response Service (NORS) 1-888-688-6677**, Remote Service for Overdose Prevention (RSOP) **1-800-265-2626, option 2**).
- When several people are using, **avoid using all at the same time**.
 - o Make sure to stay with the person and provide regular stimulation in the hours that follow: the person must remain arousable at all times (snoring = warning sign).
- **Have naloxone available** in large enough quantities and know how to use it if someone shows signs of overdose. In case of doubt, don't hesitate to use it (naloxone is not dangerous even if it isn't necessary).
- **Reduce the dose of a drug to test its effects.**
- Use [supervised consumption services](#).
- Use [drug checking services](#).
- **Call 911** in the event of an overdose (the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* provides immunity from prosecution for simple possession to overdose witnesses who have called 911).

3. Provide information and support, as needed, to help people obtain free naloxone from pharmacies and community organizations listed in the [INSPQ directory](#).

We urge you to be vigilant and to inform us of any unusual situation by using the [fiche de signalement de surdose](#).

For more information:

[Surdose | Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal \(santepubliquemontreal.ca\)](#)

Source: Direction régionale de santé publique du Montréal – CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal 514-528-2400
