

D-2K

KETAMINE FACTFILE

KNOW IT Ketamine hydrochloride is a powerful anaesthetic drug.

The trade name for the medicine used on humans is Ketalar. The veterinary medicine is Ketaset.

On the street it is known as Special K, Vitamin K, K or Kit-Kat.

The illicit drug usually comes in tablet form but sometimes it is sold as a powder which is snorted up the nose.

Ketamine is sometimes found in ecstasy tablets mixed with ephedrine.

THE LAW Ketamine is a prescription-only medicine.

Possession of ketamine without a prescription is not illegal.

Supply (selling or giving it to another person) is against the law and Class C penalties may apply.

The maximum penalty for supply of a Class C drug is 5 years' prison and/or a fine.

A drugs record can cause serious problems at home and school and could affect job prospects.

If you have a drugs record, it can be difficult to get a visa to travel to some countries.

The information given here is general. If specific legal advice is required, please consult a solicitor.

EFFECTS At low doses ketamine produces a peculiar altered state of consciousness which makes people feel they are not part of reality. Users hallucinate, lose co-ordination and become unsteady on their feet.

**national
drugs
helpline**
0800 77 66 00

At higher doses the anaesthetic effect takes over and numbs the body. When this happens, users can be physically unable to move. Serious injury can occur without the user realising.

Ketamine can make the user feel different at different times. The effects can be unpredictable. If the user is feeling anxious, nervous or uncomfortable, s/he is more likely to have a bad experience.

RISKS

Ketamine tablets are quite often sold as something else, such as ecstasy. The effects can be very alarming if the user isn't expecting them.

Sometimes ketamine is sold in powder form, so users find it difficult to know how much to take.

If taken in a night club the risk of accidents is increased.

Use can trigger mental problems in some people. Anyone who has a history of mental illness, or is unhappy or depressed, should not take ketamine.

Ketamine is **VERY DANGEROUS** when mixed with other drugs, particularly alcohol. The combination of ketamine and alcohol can lead to collapse or coma.

The long-term effects of ketamine abuse are not really known.