



METHAMPHETAMINES

What Do You Know? - ANSWERS

1. Chronic methamphetamine use can result in symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease.
True. Chronic methamphetamine use can lead to damage to the dopamine system in the brain similar to that of Parkinson's disease, a progressive neuro-degenerative disease that causes tremor, weakness and cognitive impairment. Thus long-term use of methamphetamines may result in symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease.
2. Methamphetamines slow the heart rate and lower blood pressure.
False. Methamphetamines increase the body's heart rate and blood pressure level.
3. Soldiers used methamphetamines during World War II.
True. Soldiers used both amphetamines and methamphetamines during World War II and other wars, resulting in an increase in addiction to the drugs after the war.
4. Methamphetamines and other amphetamines were legal prior to 1970.
True. Amphetamines were first made illegal without a prescription by the 1970 Controlled Substances Act.
5. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter, but it controls pleasure and mood.
False. Norepinephrine is the neurotransmitter that controls anger and fear.
6. Methamphetamine users may scratch open their skin to remove imaginary bugs.
True. Some chronic meth users experience a phenomenon known as "formication"—hallucinations that make them think that they have bugs crawling on or under their skin. They scratch their skin open to try and get rid of these "crank bugs."
7. Although you may become tolerant to the effects of methamphetamines, you can't become addicted to the drug.
False. Methamphetamines are extremely addictive. Addiction to meth is very difficult to treat.
8. Every pound of meth that is manufactured produces five pounds of toxic waste.
True. One of the hazards of methamphetamine production is that it produces toxic waste, often disposed of into the ground, streams, rivers and public sewer systems.
9. Methamphetamine users are at risk for lead poisoning.
True. Illegally-manufactured methamphetamines are often contaminated with lead.
10. Methamphetamine use increases the appetite.
False. Methamphetamines decrease the appetite and may result in severe weight loss and /or anorexia.