

# Ketamine — Effects on Human Performance and Behavior

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**REFERENCE:** Mozayani A: Ketamine — Effects on human performance and behavior; *Forensic Sci Rev* 14:123–131;2002.

**ABSTRACT:** Ketamine is a rapid-acting anesthetic commonly used during surgical procedures in both animals and humans, as an experimental drug in the treatment of chronic pain, and as a probe for the study of the cause of schizophrenia. When used medically as an anesthetic it is administered as an intravenous (IV) solution, but when diverted to the illicit market it can be injected, snorted, smoked, or consumed in drinks. Ketamine produces effects similar in some respects to phencyclidine (PCP) and lysergic acid (LSD), but of shorter duration. Psychedelic effects are produced quickly by low doses of the drug, although larger doses are frequently used in an attempt to produce “near-death” experiences. Convulsions and death can be caused by higher doses, although most deaths in which ketamine is detected are the result of poly-drug use or trauma. Reports of ketamine use at rave parties attended by young adults appear to be on the rise. The effects from ketamine last from 1–5 hours, and ketamine can be detected in the urine for a period of 1–2 days following use.

**KEYWORDS:** Club drugs, driving, drug of abuse, impairment, performance, ketamine, toxicology.

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