Signs / Symptoms of Common Overdoses Substances

CNS depressants, sedatives and tranquilizers
(alcohol, barbiturates, antihistamines, tranquilizers)
- Altered LOC
- CNS depression
- Respiratory and circulatory failure
- Diaphoresis
- Tachycardia
- Dilated pupils

SSRI
(selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, for example: Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Celexa)
- Altered LOC
- Nausea, vomiting
- Hallucinations
- Diaphoresis
- Headache

Psychedelic drugs
LSD
- Altered LOC
- Anxiety, paranoia, illusion, hallucinations, flashbacks
PCP
- May cause violent rage, paralysis and seizures

Inhalants
(aerosol propellants, gasoline, kerosene, glues, lacquer thinners, lighter fluid, typing correction fluid)
- Altered LOC progressing to coma
- Swollen mucous membranes, runny nose
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Cardiac arrest

Alcohol Intoxication
- Altered LOC
- Dilated pupils
- Vomiting
- Inability to protect airway

Narcotics
(heroin, codeine, morphine, opiates)
- Altered LOC progressing to coma
- Respiratory depression progressing to apnea
- Constricted pupils
- Needle track marks
- Diaphoresis
- Cardiac arrest

Cannabis
(THC - tetrahydrocannabinol, marijuana, hashish)
• Moderate dosages cause euphoria, relaxed inhibitions and disoriented behavior.
• Overdoses can cause fatigue, tremors and paranoia

Stimulants
(cocaine, methamphetamine, ephedrine, methylphenidate – Ritalin)
• Altered LOC – excitation, agitation, paranoia, violence
• Dilated pupils
• Hypertension
• Hyperthermia
• Tachycardia, arrhythmias
• Severe cardiac toxicity
• MI, Angina
• Coma
• Cardiac arrest

Antidepressants
(tricyclics - nortriptyline, amitryptyline, doxepin, imiprimine)
• Altered LOC – coma- seizures
• Dilated pupils
• Respiratory depression
• Hypotension – circulatory failure
• Cardiac arrhythmias and cardiac arrest

Acetaminophen
(Tylenol)
• May be asymptomatic early
• General malaise
• Nausea vomiting
• CNS depression – coma – seizures
• RUQ pain
• Diaphoresis
• Shock

GHB
(Street names for GHB include Liquid ecstasy, Liquid X, Georgia Home Boy, Goop, Gamma-oh and Grievous Bodily Harm.)
• Euphoria
• Altered LOC
• Drowsiness
• Nausea
• Seizures
• Severe respiratory depression
• Coma
• Death

Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is a central nervous system depressant abused for its ability to produce euphoric and hallucinatory states and its alleged ability to release growth hormone and stimulate muscle growth. GHB is used in liquid, powder or capsule form. It can be snorted, smoked and mixed into drinks. It is odorless and nearly tasteless.