

How To Test Your Drugs

Using Xylazine Test Strips

What is xylazine?

Xylazine, commonly known as “tranq,” is an animal tranquilizer that can cause extreme sedation in humans, which increases the risk of overdose. It is not an opioid but has almost always been found together with fentanyl (a powerful synthetic opioid) in the New York City drug supply. Xylazine can cause severe skin wounds, even if not injected, which may be difficult to treat.

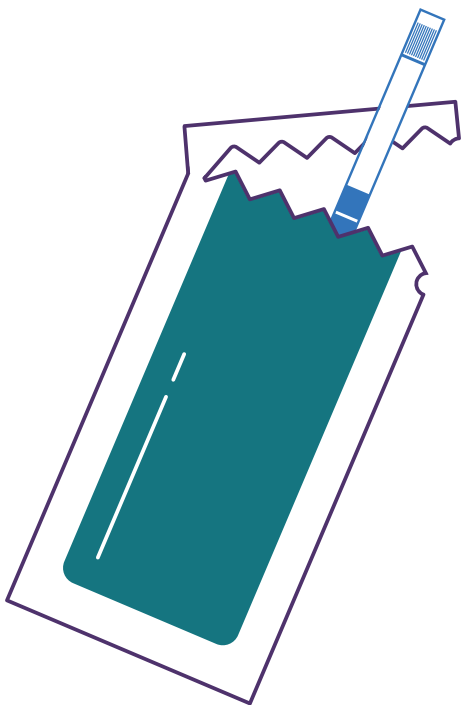


Illustration of test strip and package

How can I test my drugs for xylazine?

The most accurate way to tell if your drugs contain xylazine is to test all the drugs you plan to use with a xylazine test strip, as xylazine is not always mixed evenly throughout. Test strips can tell you if your drugs contain xylazine but not how much there is or how strong it is.

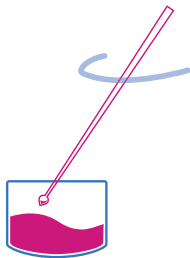
1.

Put at least 10 milligrams (mg) of your drugs (enough to cover Abraham Lincoln's hair on a penny) in a clean, dry container (such as a medicine measuring cup) or plastic microscop.

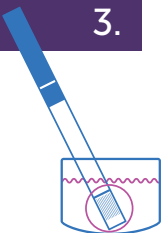
- If you cannot test 10 mg of your drugs, put at least a few grains in a clean, dry container. You can also put your drugs in a plastic bag, shake the bag to mix, empty the bag, and then add water to the leftover drug residue and test.

2.

Add 5 milliliters (1 teaspoon) of water for every 10 mg of your drugs and stir.



3.



Place the strip with the wavy side down in the water. Let the strip absorb the water for 15 seconds.

4.

Take the strip out of the water and place it on a flat surface for five minutes before reading the results. Make sure to read the results within 10 minutes of taking the strip out of the water.

If you also have fentanyl test strips, you can test your drugs for fentanyl and xylazine using the same sample.

What do the test results mean?



One line is a **positive test**, meaning xylazine has been detected in your drugs. See “What should I do if I get a positive test result or think my drugs contain xylazine?” for guidance.



Two lines (even if the second line is very faint) is a **negative test**, meaning xylazine has **not** been detected in your drugs. However, no test is 100% accurate, so be cautious and use risk reduction practices (see “What can I do to lower my risk of overdose?” on the back of this brochure) if you use the drugs.



No lines or one line closer to the wavy side of the strip is an **invalid test**. Retest your drugs with a new strip, if available.

Certain conditions may increase your chances of getting a false result. For example, some substances, such as lidocaine, may give you a false positive, even if your drugs do not contain xylazine. If you have questions about results, bring your drugs to a drug-checking location or email drugchecking@health.nyc.gov. For a list of locations, call **311** or visit nyc.gov/alcoholanddrugs.

What should I do if I get a positive test result or think my drugs contain xylazine?

- Consider not using the drugs, especially if you are alone or in a place where it might be dangerous to be unconscious for a long time.
- Bring them to an overdose prevention center to use under supervision.
- If you have skin wounds, continuing to use xylazine can make them worse. Consider not using xylazine so wounds can heal. If you have wounds that do not improve or go away, talk to your health care provider. For help finding a provider, call **311** or 844-NYC-4NYC (844-692-4692).

Where can I get xylazine test strips?

You can order xylazine test strips for personal use online from manufacturers, including for no cost from the MATTERS Network at mattersnetwork.org/request-test-strips.

What can I do to lower my risk of overdose?

- Avoid using drugs alone and take turns.
- If you are going to use alone, call the Never Use Alone hotline at 877-696-1996 before using. Peer operators can monitor for safety on the phone, 24/7 — no judgment.



- Ask someone you trust to check on you regularly.



- Go slow by taking small amounts.

- Avoid mixing drugs.

- Make sure you have naloxone — a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose — nearby.



To find out where to get naloxone, call **311** or visit nyc.gov/naloxone.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/alcoholanddrugs.