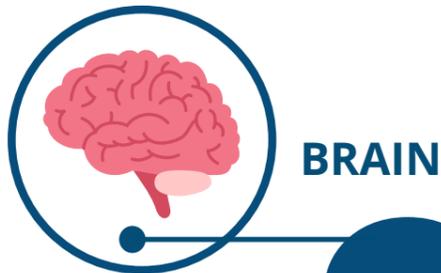


# Effects of Stimulants on the Body

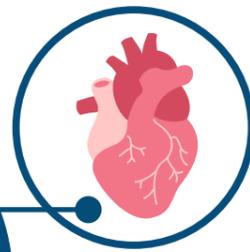
Stimulants are a class of psychoactive drugs that affect the brain and speed up the activity of the central nervous system, resulting in individuals feeling more awake, alert, energetic but also over confident and more likely to take risks.

Stimulant drug examples include:  
Cocaine  
Amphetamine (Speed)  
Methamphetamine (Ecstasy)

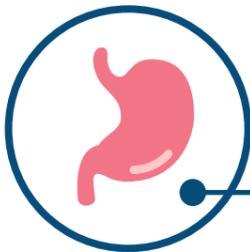
Lower dose effects include: Feelings of euphoria, agitation and sleeplessness. Whereas, large doses may cause anxiety, paranoia and seizures.



In addition, regular stimulant use can reduce grey matter in the brain, diminishing the brain's ability to plan, make decisions and problem solve. Ultimately, the brain starts to lose self-control.



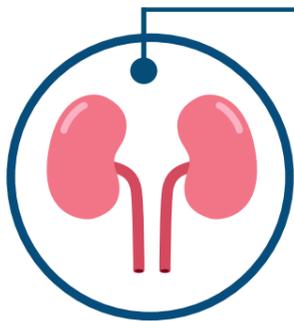
**HEART**  
Increased heart rate and heightened blood pressure. Pre-empting any weakness in the heart (attack) or brain (stroke).



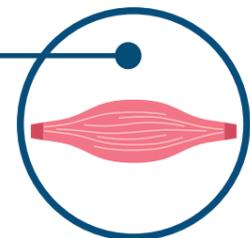
Reduced appetite, nausea, involuntary abdominal cramps and vomiting.



**LIVER**  
Ecstasy, amphetamine and methamphetamine abuse have been shown to cause chronic liver inflammation (hepatitis).



**KIDNEYS**  
While some stimulants indirectly affect the kidneys, others are directly toxic to the organs, leading to kidney failure.



**MUSCLE**  
Involuntary muscle shakes or tremors, reducing an individual's ability to control a machine or drive a truck.



**BODY TEMPERATURE**  
Increased body temperature. Hyperthermia is commonly associated with stimulant abuse and can be fatal, due to excess sweating, dehydration and organ shut down.

Tolerance, in which more and more drug is needed to produce the usual effects, can develop rapidly, and 'psychological dependence' occurs. Addiction, the next step means a person cannot function without that drug.