



## The Potential Risk of Hallucinogen Drug caused by Intraocular Mescaline

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### ABOUT THE STUDY

Mescaline is considered a psychedelic or hallucinogen drug. Mescaline is derived from the button-shaped seeds found in the peyote cactus and is also found in other members of the cactus plant family and the leguminous legume family. These peyote cactus are mixed with water to make a hallucinogenic drink. Mescaline has a bitter taste, so some people grind the peyote button into an off-white powder and put it in capsules. Mescaline has been used for thousands of years and is best known as a drug used by some Native Americans of Mexico as part of their religious ceremonies. Peyote buttons are commonly chewed, but can also be mixed with water and swallowed. Most users chew button seeds to induce hallucinatory effects which will last for 12 to 18 hours. Mescaline causes rich and intense visual hallucinations. Mescaline is primarily used as a recreational drug and is also used to supplement various types of meditation and psychedelic therapy. As a hallucinogenic or psychedelic drug, mescaline induces altered states of consciousness in which people experience altered thinking and perception.

Visual hallucinations are a common consequence of mescaline use, and people often describe a distorted experience of time. However, there are some limited studies on the frequency of use, overdose potential, and effects on mental health. People using mescaline may see and hear things that do not exist or have no real basis. People may feel much more anxious or frightened than expected. They usually know that the hallucinations that occur with high mescaline are not real, but they can cause a lot of confusion and stress. How long mescaline stays in the body depends on factors such as a person's metabolism, fluid balance, weight, and general health. Mescaline is detected in urine for 2-3

days but detected in hair follicle tests for up to 90 days. Although mescaline does not appear to be addictive, more research is needed to determine its addictive potential. Substance abuse and addiction treatment often include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). This is the process of addressing underlying thought patterns that contribute to maladaptive behavior. Approaches that combine CBT with individual psychotherapy, group therapy, or support groups are not uncommon.

Pharmacologists have given mescaline a fair trial. The use of fashionable psychedelics as therapeutic agents seemed plausible in the early and mid-20th centuries. Ultimately, it has profound effects on the human body and has been used in parts of America for centuries as a gateway to ritual spiritual experiences. Although modern use of mescaline is declined, it is still used for recreational purposes and is sometimes used to complement various types of meditation and psychedelic therapy. Common effects of mescaline include hallucinations, euphoria, altered state of consciousness, uncontrollable laughter, and time slowing down, mixed sensations, dilated pupils, and dream state.

Mescaline-containing cacti can also induce severe vomiting and nausea, which can lead to hospitalization. Although the physical risk of mescaline poisoning is relatively low, people may experience certain behaviors and feelings caused by mescaline. It can be emotionally dependent. Behavioral therapy targets the causes behind these behavioral addictions and can be very helpful in stopping mescaline use. There are currently no Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatments for mescaline. Antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs, and other drugs can be used to treat symptoms of the underlying mental illness.

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