



## Hallucinogens (LSD)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>LSD is an acronym for Lysergic Acid Diethylamide but is most commonly referred to as “acid”. It is a synthetic drug usually found in small squares of impregnated paper (with eye-catching images on each square). It is also found in the form of tiny tablets (called microdots), small gelatin squares (called windowpane) or as a clear liquid solution.</b>
<b>MODE OF ADMINISTRATION</b>	Acid is absorbed orally (placed under the tongue) or through skin (transdermal).
<b>PRIMARY EFFECT</b>	Hallucinogen.
<b>SHORT-TERM EFFECTS</b>	<p>The effects are experienced within 60 minutes after absorption and can last for up to 8 – 12 hours. The following effects are usually present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dilated pupils;</li><li>• Increased heart rate and blood pressure;</li><li>• Increase in body temperature;</li><li>• Sweating;</li><li>• Distorted perceptual and sensory processes;</li><li>• Hallucinations;</li><li>• Heightened senses;</li><li>• Intense emotions and introspective reflection;</li><li>• Impaired judgment;</li><li>• Loss of concentration and diminished short-term memory;</li><li>• Loss of co-ordination;</li><li>• Loss of appetite;</li><li>• Tremors;</li><li>• Sleeplessness;</li><li>• A “bad trip” may include depression, anxiety, paranoia, psychosis and convulsions.</li></ul>
<b>LONG-TERM EFFECTS</b>	<p>Heavy and continued use can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flashbacks (including headaches, migraines, seizures, and visual and auditory hallucinations);</li><li>• Psychiatric complications (including posttraumatic stress disorder, disorientation, panic disorder, depression and suicidal behaviour);</li><li>• Risk of injury.</li></ul>
<b>ADDICTION POTENTIAL</b>	High psychological addiction potential.
<b>TREATMENT OPTIONS</b>	In cases of heavy and prolonged use, inpatient and/or outpatient treatment with the use of multiple therapeutic methods (individual, family and group psychotherapy) is usually necessary to achieve lasting abstinence. Co-morbid conditions are treated if required.