



## Oral Fluid Testing: **Xylazine**

Forensic Fluids Laboratories, a laboratory specializing in Oral Fluid drug testing, is pleased to announce that we are offering laboratory testing for Xylazine.

Xylazine (or Tranq) is a veterinary drug that is increasingly being used as an adulterant to Fentanyl. The advantages of Xylazine as an additive to Fentanyl are that it is potent, easily available, and cheap. It can also prolong the duration of the opiate “high.”

The dangers are that it can also contribute to a fatal overdose (Xylazine is not an opiate, and Naloxone will not reverse an overdose), it can produce skin lesions (Xylazine has also been called the “skin-rotting zombie drug”), and it produces a more prolonged withdrawal cycle when mixed with other opiates.



### What is Xylazine?



Xylazine is a sedative, muscle relaxant and analgesic commonly used as a veterinary therapeutic drug on livestock, which is the reason that it’s readily available in agricultural regions. Originally, it was developed as a drug for hypertension, but due to its side effects, it is no longer prescribed for human use. It is approved for veterinary use in a liquid injectable or crystalline powder form.

Xylazine is often abused as an additive to Fentanyl. Since Xylazine is not an opiate, Naloxone cannot reverse a Xylazine overdose. This results in increased overdose deaths involving Xylazine abuse in concert with other drugs.

### Where is Xylazine?

Xylazine abuse was first found in the U.S. more than ten years ago, in Puerto Rico. It has now been detected in overdoses in 48 out of 50 states. Xylazine has spread from rural areas to urban areas, where it is now becoming an increasing problem as well.