

Have you heard of MEDETOMIDINE?

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What is it?

Medetomidine, or “rhino tranq,” is a veterinary sedative that is stronger than xylazine.

Where is it?

Medetomidine has been found in many drug samples throughout Ohio.

What does it do?

Medetomidine can cause deep sleep or sleepiness for a long time, low blood pressure, and shaking.

What do you need to know?

Medetomidine withdrawal can start quickly and be very serious. Sometimes people need to go to the hospital.

Bring this card to the hospital with you if you think you're experiencing medetomidine withdrawal.



Department of
Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Medetomidine withdrawal & when to go to the hospital

Medetomidine withdrawal can cause:

- a very fast heartbeat
- very high blood pressure
- going in and out of responding or being aware even while awake
- heavy sweating
- shaking or twitching
- anxiety and restlessness

Signs to go to the hospital:

- can't stop throwing up
- have chest pain
- going in and out of responding or being aware, even while awake
- otherwise experiencing more severe withdrawal symptoms than usual

Guidance for healthcare providers treating medetomidine withdrawal

Treating medetomidine withdrawal requires treating fentanyl withdrawal with long-acting opioid agonists like methadone and using adjunctive medications such as:

- clonidine
- guanfacine
- tizanidine
- dexmedetomidine
- ketamine
- olanzapine
- hydroxyzine
- benzodiazepines
- prochlorperazine
- chlorpromazine

This card was created in June 2025. Check SubstanceUsePhilly.com for up-to-date treatment info.

Find current treatment guidance for medetomidine withdrawal from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at:

SubstanceUsePhilly.com/medetomidine

