Heroin vs. Opioids

**Heroin**
- Street heroin
- Smoked, injected, dissolved
- Phormologically similar to prescription opioids

**Prescription Opioids**
- Pain reliever
- Snorted, dissolved, injected
- Molecularly different

**Similarities**
- Target neurological effects
- Mechanisms to induce effects

**Differences**
- Molecularly and pharmacologically
- Onset time
- Consequences of overdosage

**Are Opioids Even More Dangerous Than Heroin?**

- Higher potential for abuse and overdose
- Prescription opioids may put users at higher risk

**How Similar is Heroin to Prescription Opioids?**

- Opioids are powerful
- Prescription opioids are very similar to heroin
- Opioid addiction potential
- **Heroin**
  - Can be synthesized from opiate alkaloids
  - Belong to the class of substances known as "black tar heroin"

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Made from opium
  - Can be made synthetically

**Sources:**
- National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2014). What are the immediate (short-term) effects of heroin use?

**How Addictive Are Opioids?**

- Opioids are highly addictive
- Risk for abuse and overdose
- Prescription opioids may put users at a higher risk

**Heroin Addiction Potential**

- **Risk for Abuse and Overdose**
  - Prescription opioids may put users at higher risk
  - Ultimately, heroin and prescription opioids are very similar

**Methods of Use**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Snorted, dissolved, injected

- **Heroin**
  - Street heroin, snorted, dissolved and injected

**Withdrawal**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - May last up to one month

- **Heroin**
  - Onset varies by route of use
  - Withdrawal symptoms may appear within 12 hours of last use

**Overdose**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Caused nearly 42,000 deaths in 2016

- **Heroin**
  - Deaths due to drug is increasing

**Are Painkillers Even More Dangerous Than Heroin?**

- Prescription opioids are more dangerous than heroin
- Prescription opioids are more potent than heroin

**Dangerous Than Heroin?**

- Prescription opioids are more potent than heroin
- Prescription opioids cause more deaths than heroin

**Are Painkillers Even More Dangerous Than Heroin?**

- Prescription opioids are more dangerous than heroin
- Prescription opioids cause more deaths than heroin

**Methods and Dangers**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Take months to fully reverse

- **Heroin**
  - Take weeks to fully reverse

**Confederated?**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - 100X more powerful

- **Heroin**
  - 50X more powerful

**The Drug’s Ability To:**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Decreased sensation of pain, muscle relaxation

- **Heroin**
  - Decreased sensation of pain, muscle relaxation

**The Drug’s Ability To:**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Sedation
  - Depression

- **Heroin**
  - Sedation
  - Depression

**THE METHODS**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - Snorted, dissolved, injected

- **Heroin**
  - Street heroin, snorted, dissolved and injected

**THE ODORS OF ADDICTION:**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - 50% higher

- **Heroin**
  - Common

**THE ODORS OF ADDICTION:**

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**50X More Powerful Than Heroin**

- Prescription opioids are more potent than heroin

**100X More Powerful Than Heroin**

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**YOUR ODDS**

- **Prescription Opioids**
  - 50X more potent than heroin

- **Heroin**
  - 100X more potent than prescription opioids

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