



## Can You Overdose on Suboxone?

By design, Suboxone is intended to be tamper-proof. That is because it contains buprenorphine and Naloxone. Buprenorphine is an opiate. Not as strong as heroin, but the receptors that react to opiates love it. It fills them up but doesn't activate them the same way heroin or morphine does. You may get a "good" feeling but you won't get high. That doesn't mean that it can't be abused. Anyone who does not have a tolerance can put themselves at risk if taking it outside a provider's guidelines. The second part of the medication is Naloxone also known as Narcan. Taking Suboxone by mouth won't activate the Naloxone. It wasn't made to work well orally. It is very strong if injected. If someone were to inject Suboxone by crushing or liquefying it, they will go into an immediate and very uncomfortable withdrawal.

### **Suboxone Overdose Symptoms**

Suboxone misuse comes with unwanted withdrawal symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, body aches, insomnia, indigestion, diarrhea, and anxiety.

Other possible effects include:

- Drowsiness in excessive, dangerous amounts
- Blurred or foggy vision and thinking
- Shallow, slow or stopped breathing
- Collapsing caused by impaired functions and dizziness
- Pinpoint pupils or erratic eye movements

As with all opioid overdoses, overdoses by Suboxone require immediate medical attention.

### **Suboxone Overdose Can Be Fatal**

Accidental overdoses on Suboxone often start with risky use techniques, like snorting and injecting the medicine. Suboxone does not mix well with depressants or sedatives. Alcoholic beverages are chief among these dangers. When combined with Suboxone, even beverages that have otherwise low alcohol-by-volume content (like beer), the side effects of both substances together become more serious. Mixing Suboxone with Benzos can also lead to overdose. You can get so relaxed that your brain loses its desire to tell you to breathe. It may sound crazy but it's true.

### **Suboxone Overdose Treatment**

Naloxone or Narcan is the best way to stop and reverse an opiate overdose. You can get kits with a nasal spray Naloxone from the pharmacy. Spray into the victim's nostril and an overdose may be stopped immediately. Kits come with two doses, as a second dose is sometimes necessary. Always call 911 right away even if the Narcan works.