Local Rehab Explains Why Opiates Make People Itch

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Newport, TN ? ReVIDA® Recovery is a local rehab specializing in explaining topics surrounding opioid use, and their latest installment answers the question ?Why do opiates make you itch?? Their program utilizes medication-assisted treatment (MAT) alongside flexible, outpatient therapy to successfully treat opioid use disorders.

?You may have heard of opioids, but maybe not heard of opiates. Essentially, both are the same class of substance. All opioids are derived from the opium poppy plant. Opiates are considered natural as they still contain plant properties. Common opiates include morphine, codeine, and opium. Opioids are partially or fully synthesized, meaning they contain little to no plant properties. Fentanyl is a prime example of an opioid. The term opioid can be used to describe opiates, but not the other way around,? the article reads.

Opiates cause itching no matter if they are used as prescribed or recreationally. Blood vessels dilate when opiates are taken, and can cause flushing of the neck, face, and chest. These changes cause the body to release histamine, which triggers sweating and itching. This can be caused by an allergic reaction, but many people experience itching and are not allergic to opiates.

Opiates affect the brain directly by attaching to opioid receptors. The receptors cause a disturbance in how

certain nerves react. Opiates cause the spinal itch nerve to activate, causing opiate-induced pruritus (the medical term for itching). The condition is not permanent and the sensation will stop as the medication leaves the system.

?If you have recently been prescribed an opiate medication, you may notice you are more itchy than normal. Talk to your doctor to see what can be done or if you need to switch medications. If breathing problems ever accompany itching, seek medical attention immediately as you may be allergic to the opiate.

Those who use substances recreationally are prone to opiate-induced itching. Those who use opiates illicitly are commonly injecting them. These wounds can become infected, increasing itching. The problem is that itching wounds often open them back up, making it more difficult for them to heal. Paired with a weakened immune system, these wounds can become toxic quickly, and cause life-threatening infections,? the article continues.

The best way to prevent opiate-induced itching is to avoid taking them. Those taking illicit opiates may find it beneficial to seek treatment to discontinue their use. Those living with chronic conditions and pain that require medication to help manage it should discuss with their care team if they notice itching that interrupts their daily life. There are many medications available to treat pain, and depending on the severity, there may be alternatives that the medical staff can discuss. However, there are no specific medications to treat itching specifically. Some have had success taking antihistamines with opiates, but it is not a guaranteed cure for itching.

While itching is an unpleasant side effect of opiate use, it does not guarantee an opiate use disorder is present. Signs of opiate use disorders include hiding use from family and friends, changing friend groups, poor work or school performance, increased depression and anxiety, and seeing paraphernalia such as pill bottles, needles, rubber bands, and lighters.

ReVIDA® Recovery has been helping many reclaim their lives from opiates and opioids. Their program boasts a nonjudgmental atmosphere and compassionate care teams for all who walk through their doors. They take pride in serving the Appalachian communities throughout Tennessee and Virginia, and offer same-day appointments for convenience.

To learn more about ReVIDA® Recovery, call 423-631-0432 or visit their website.

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ReVIDA® Recovery Newport

Our supportive and passionate staff is ready to help regardless of your past treatment experiences and at whatever stage of your opioid addiction treatment journey you are in.

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