Florida Clinic Says Cocaine Is Destroying Kidneys

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BRADENTON, FL - April 22, 2026 -
Consumption of cocaine has long been associated with heart attacks and neurological damage. But there is a deeper crisis unfolding inside the bodies of stimulant consumers across Florida. Kidney failure. Clean Recovery Centers, a dual diagnosis treatment provider in Northwest Florida with locations across the Tampa Bay region, is drawing urgent attention to the connection between cocaine use and progressive kidney damage. A major link that often goes undetected until significant harm has already been done.

As cocaine use continues to rise in Florida, clinicians are seeing more clients arrive with kidney complications that could have been addressed far earlier had the warning signs been recognized. Clean Recovery Centers describes the dynamic in terms that are difficult to ignore. "Cocaine can place significant strain on the kidneys, sometimes causing injury that develops quietly and worsens over time. This happens because cocaine restricts blood flow, raises blood pressure, and increases dehydration, all of which directly affect kidney function." Fatigue, subtle swelling, and changes in urination are all among the earliest signs ? and are all symptoms that are easily dismissed, with many people attributing them to stress or poor sleep. And, by the time the picture of what is happening becomes clear, kidney function is often already seriously compromised.

For those who are seeking to understand the full physical toll of cocaine use disorder, Clean Recovery Centers has published a comprehensive resource that outlines how stimulant use can affect kidney health at

every stage ? from acute injury to chronic disease. The organization approaches treatment not as an isolated episode but as an ongoing journey. Guiding clients through their Preparation, Action, and Maintenance phases with the goal of addressing the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

According to this resource, research and clinical observation point to several mechanisms through which cocaine places the kidneys under serious stress. Reduced blood flow is among the most immediate. Cocaine causes intense vasoconstriction, meaning the blood vessels start to narrow and limit oxygen delivery to the kidney tissue. In addition to this, blood pressure spikes from repeated stimulant use can strain the kidneys' delicate filtering structures over time. Cocaine also suppresses thirst and increases fluid loss ? making dehydration significantly more likely. In warm climates like Florida's, heat and physical exertion significantly amplify all of these risks, with studies noting that kidney stress escalates sharply when cocaine is present during physical activity in high-temperature environments.

If left unaddressed, cocaine-related kidney damage follows a predictable and increasingly severe trajectory. From acute kidney injury, which can develop within hours, to chronic kidney disease, and ultimately to end-stage renal failure requiring dialysis or transplant. With synthetic cutting agents like levamisole becoming more prevalent in the U.S. cocaine supply, the risk of immune-related kidney inflammation is expanding even among occasional users. The window for intervention and for meaningful recovery of kidney function narrows with every episode of use. Early treatment saves kidneys. It also saves lives.

About Clean Recovery Centers: Clean Recovery Centers is one of the largest providers of dual diagnosis addiction and mental health treatment in Northwest Florida, operating six locations across the Tampa Bay area. This organization offers a full continuum of care, is in-network with nearly all major commercial insurance plans, and specializes in integrated treatment for co-occurring substance use and mental health conditions. With trauma-certified therapists, a culturally diverse staff, and many team members who are themselves in recovery, Clean Recovery Centers is committed to treating recovery as a lifelong journey ? not a destination.

Get Clean. Live Clean. Stay Clean.

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Clean Recovery Centers - Bradenton

Clean Recovery Centers in Bradenton, Florida is drug and alcohol Detoxification and Residential Level 1 treatment facility that will be opening in 2023.

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