AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING

How fast the Drug Acts
How long the Drug Acts
The intensity of the Action
The Degree of its Localization
Coatings/Binders/Fillers

- Controlled-released formulations
- High percent consists of sugars and time-release ingredients
Not necessary to use heat because there are no "impurities"
“Bum Nuts”

- Insert the pill rectally or dissolve in water using an enema bottle.
Methadone Programs
Methadone
Trade Name: Dolophine® & Methadose®

Methadone is used to withdraw heroin addicts. It is given in a cherry liquid and/or Methadose 40mg tablets dissolved in water.
Available in:

- Solution
- Dissolvable Tablet
- Tablet
Doctors prescribed 715% more methadone in 2006 than they had in 2001.
Deaths from overdoses on methadone rose 390 percent between 1999 and 2004, and the trend is continuing, according to a new report from the National Drug Intelligence Center.

USA Today reported Dec. 6 that the report attributes the trend mostly to increased use of methadone as a painkiller; the drug is seen as a cheaper alternative to drugs like OxyContin, which also have more potential for abuse and diversion. Doctors prescribed 715 percent more methadone in 2006 than they had in 2001.
The methadone overdose rate was highest among those ages 15 to 24; the rate was lower than that for other narcotic painkillers but is rising faster.

"The larger story is the widespread abuse of prescription painkillers in America," said Tom Riley of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "The abuse and misuse of prescription drugs is far more dangerous and far more widespread than most Americans realize."
Overdose

- Respiratory depressant effect can last longer than analgesic effect
- Cardiac conduction
  - Rate the heart conducts electrical impulses
- Prolonged QT intervals
  - How long it takes to “recharge” heart cells
- Arrhythmias

*The QT interval represents repolarization, or "recharge," of a cardiac cell*
Too many patients are never warned on their prescription bottles about the tricky nature of taking methadone.

*Indication dose is toxic*
What is BUPRENORPHINE?

- Only opioid addiction med that is physician office prescribable
  - Two formulations, Subutex® & Suboxone®
- Partial opioid agonist compared to full agonist like oxy or heroin
  - Less of euphoric effect
  - Easier to discontinue use
- Users can experience euphoria, especially if they do not take it regularly

An agonist is a chemical that binds to a receptor of a cell and triggers a response by that cell.
Blocks receptor
• Stronger binding ability
• Expels existing opioids
• Blocks others
  • Partial agonist – limited effect

The half-life of buprenorphine is 24–60 hours

provides analgesic effects as well as blocks other narcotics effects

An agonist is a chemical that binds to a receptor of a cell and triggers a response by that cell.

3 meds commonly used to treat opioid addiction:
1. Methadone
2. Buprenorphine
3. Naltrexone
What is Naloxone?

- An opioid antagonist
- Included in Suboxone to discourage abuse
- If injected, the naloxone will precipitates almost immediate withdrawal
- When suboxone is placed under the tongue as directed very little naloxone reaches the bloodstream
Abuse of Suboxone

Street Abuse - unable to find drug of choice or to curtail withdrawal

Prisons - especially in New England (commonly prescribed)

12% of all contraband discovered in Massachusetts state prisons
Abuse of Suboxone

More adaptable than other drugs to smuggle and manipulate
- Film
- Pills crushed and made into a paste
- Spread under stamps or over colorings
- Orange tint
- Crayon scribblings, stickers, glitter glue, any “foreign substance”
“On the Nod”

- Semiconscious
- Droopy eyelids (Ptosis)
- Head slumped forward, chin on chest
- Easily awakened
- Alert to questions
Valium

DXM

Meth

Heroin