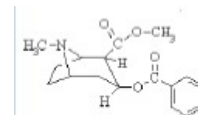


# Cocaine

- Cocaine is an alkaloid from the leaves of the bush ``Erythroxylon coca
- Indians – Chew on leaves
- Isolated cocaine:

*salt-like aspect* – sniffed, i.v. application  
*as a base* – inhalation, smoking (crack)



Cocaine

## History of Coca-Cola:

- 1886 Atlanta druggist J. S. Pemberton - morphinist
- Syrup from the extraction of Coca leaves and the African Cola nut - as a medicine
- Free sale - mass addiction to cocaine...

## Pharmacology

- Levorotatory isomer – pharmacologically active
- Cocaine – agonist of catecholamines (dopamine....)
- Has stimulating effects
- Acts as an anesthetic (blocks the flow of sodium in the nerves)
- In case of overdose, cardiac arrhythmias occur and subsequently possible death <sup>[1]</sup>



*Erythroxylon coca*

## Abuse

- Sniff, i.v., i.v. also with heroin ("stereo")
- Smoking crack - immediate availability in the blood

## Acute abuse

- Usual doses: 10–120 mg
- Duration of effect: 1–2 hours
- Symptoms:
  - Euphoria – stimulation, followed by depression
  - Hyperactivity, irritability, aggressiveness
  - Initial improvement in mood, confidence, sense of superiority ("EGO")
  - Sexual excitement
  - Anorexia

## Chronic abuse

- Psychosis, hallucinations with paranoid delusions
- Loss of appetite, weight loss
- Tissue damage at application sites
- Severe psychological dependence occurs
- Development of tolerance is not significant <sup>[1]</sup>

## Links

## Related Articles

- Substance abuse • Drug addiction and illegal production and possession of narcotics • Opioid abuse
- Amphetamines • Cocaine • Cannabinoids • Hallucinogens • LSD • Psychodugs • Barbiturates • Benzodiazepines • [ [Ethanol]]
- Cannabinoid use disorders • Opioid use disorders

## References

1. BALÍKOVÁ, Marie. *Abuse and intoxication* [online]. [cit. 2012-03-09]. <<https://el.lf1.cuni.cz/p56355604/>>.