

Overdose and Poisoning (Adults)

Table 3.69

Illegal Drugs *continued*

DRUG	DESCRIPTION
Lysergic Acid diethylamide (LSD) or 'acid'.	<p>DESCRIPTION It is a 'mind altering drug' that alters the brain's perception of things. It was discovered in 1943, and was used in the 1960s as a 'recreational drug'.</p> <p>OUTWARD SIGNS Agitated, unusual behaviour, clear mental disturbance. The patient may appear distant and display anxious behaviour. DO NOT interfere unduly as the 'trip' will self-limit, and communication is easier then. Keep the patient safe, and remember other drugs and alcohol will aggravate the effects of LSD.</p> <p>EFFECTS The alterations in perception may be pleasant or 'nightmarish', or a mix of both, and last for some 12 hours.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION Produced on patches of blotting paper, called tabs or trips, often with printed motifs including cartoon characters. Once swallowed they take 30–60 minutes to work. The trip will last up to 12 hours and cannot be stopped. LSD is not addictive but is illegal.</p> <p>SIDE EFFECTS Central nervous system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visual hallucinations (distortion and delusions), which can cause dangerous behaviour.● Nightmarish perceptions 'bad trips' may last for 12 hours.● Nausea and vomiting.● Personality changes and psychiatric illness.● Nightmarish flashbacks that can last for years after drug use stops.● Delusions – false sensations or visions – may affect taste, hearing and vision.● Can trigger hidden mental illness in individuals.● Permanent eye damage can occur. <p>TREATMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Usually self-limiting but sedate if necessary with intravenous diazepam – refer to diazepam guideline.