

Kratom

WHAT IS KRATOM?

Kratom is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses), and can lead to psychotic symptoms and psychological addiction. The psychoactive ingredient is found in the leaves from kratom tree. These leaves are subsequently crushed and then smoked, brewed with tea, or placed into gel capsules. Also known as thang, kakuam, thom, ketum, and biak, kratom is more commonly abused in the Asia Pacific region than the United States.

How is it abused?

Mostly abused by oral ingestion in a pill form, kratom may also be dissolved and ingested as a tea or the kratom leaf may be chewed.

What are the effects?

At low doses, kratom produces stimulant effects with users reporting increased alertness, physical energy, and talkativeness. At high doses, users experience sedative effects. Kratom consumption can lead to addiction.

Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of kratom have been reported, where individuals addicted to kratom exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusion, and confusion.

What does it do to your body?

Kratom's effects on the body include nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, and loss of appetite. Long-term users of kratom have experienced anorexia, weight loss, insomnia, dry mouth, frequent urination, and constipation.

What is its legal status?

Kratom is not controlled under the Federal Controlled Substances Act; however, there may be some State regulations or prohibitions against the possession and use of kratom. There is no legitimate medical use for kratom in the United States. In addition, DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern.

