Benefits of Xylazine Test Strips

WHAT IS XYLAZINE?
Xylazine is a non-opioid tranquilizer used in veterinary medicine and is not approved for human use.¹ Xylazine has been increasingly found in illicit drug supplies nationwide, particularly in illicit supplies of fentanyl.² In April 2023, the White House designated fentanyl combined with xylazine as an emerging threat to the United States³ and the CDC found that deaths from fentanyl with xylazine increased 276% from 2019 to 2022.⁴

Xylazine can decrease breath rate, blood pressure, heart rate, and body temperature to critical levels, and when combined with fentanyl, it can make reversing an overdose particularly difficult.⁵ Drugs can contain xylazine without someone knowing it since you would not be able to see it, taste it, or smell it. It is nearly impossible to know if a drug sample has xylazine in it unless the sample is tested with xylazine test strips.

XYLAZINE TEST STRIP (XTS) INFORMATION
- XTS are easy to use and a low-cost way to detect xylazine in opioid drugs.
- Both of the main XTS on the market (manufactured by BTNX or WHPM/DanceSafe) are accurate when testing opioids for the presence of xylazine.⁶
  - Overdose Lifeline distributes XTS manufactured by WHPM/DanceSafe, which has shown to be highly accurate in detecting xylazine, with no cross-reactivity with most common substances cut into drugs, except levamisole.⁷
- It is important to note that a negative test result may still contain xylazine at a concentration lower than detectable by the strip. Tests currently show that DanceSafe XTS can detect xylazine at concentrations of 10 micrograms per milliliter.⁷
- No test strip is completely, 100% accurate. Certain contaminants can give a false positive (showing a positive result when there is no xylazine present). False negatives are also possible; for example, the sample tested may not contain xylazine, but the rest of the drugs may contain xylazine.⁸
- XTS do not measure how much xylazine is contained in a drug sample nor does it test for purity. It only tests for the presence of xylazine.⁸
- DANCESAFE XTS SHOULD ONLY BE USED TO TEST OPIOIDS FOR XYLAZINE. These strips have not been assessed for accuracy in testing non-opioid drugs, and certain drugs have provided false positives when tested. Thus, DanceSafe advises against testing non-opioid drugs with XTS.⁹
  - Since xylazine is commonly found in the presence of fentanyl, it is recommended to test non-opioid drugs with fentanyl test strips

ACCESSING XTS IN INDIANA
To get XTS shipped to you for free in Indiana, please visit:  
www.overdoselifeline.org/indiana-naloxone-request-report
References


www.overdoselifeline.org