

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

History	<p>A small number of anabolic steroids are legitimately prescribed to treat wasting illnesses, dwarfism, gender reassignment and other conditions. Current notions about male physique, coupled with availability through the internet, has led to a significant increase in anabolic steroid use in the UK. Steroid use has often been associated with athletics and competitive body builders. Increasingly it is being used by people outside of these settings including young people wanting to 'bulk up,' people in jobs where size and strength is helpful, such as door staff, and men who feel the need to look more muscled.</p>
Street name	<p>Steroids, anabolics, performance enhancing drugs, juice, roids.</p>
Type	
Drug Effect	<p>Unlike most other drugs, anabolic steroids don't provide a sudden change of mental or physical state. They do provide a psychological lift - increased libido, drive, feelings of confidence and assertiveness. Anabolic steroids work by providing a massive external source of the hormone testosterone or closely related compounds. They help users develop larger, stronger muscles more quickly.</p>
Dependency	<p>Yes – elevation of performance and mood during use followed by crash when use ceases make steroid use a difficult habit to break.</p>
Description	<p>Products intended for injection in a glass ampoule or vials generally have an adhesive label or to be etched with details and are distributed in printed boxes. Some of the tablet forms may come in foil packaging in printed boxes. Other tablets may be sold simply in plastic bags with no additional packaging to assist with identification.</p>
Street use	<p>People will use various combinations of steroids over a period of time. Combinations may be taken at the same time – 'stacking' or a 'cycle' may see users taking different substances at different points. For some, cycles are infrequent while others undertake two or three a year.</p>
Withdrawal	<p>May prove difficult due to the loss of bulk and low mood that can follow the cessation of use. Steroid users can also feel the loss of ritual, routine and camaraderie that accompanies steroid use.</p>
Long term use	<p>Some kinds of steroids carry an increased risk of serious liver damage. In male users the use of testosterone-based compounds can lead to interruption of the users own testosterone production. When use stops the person has low</p>

	<p>levels of testosterone and may experience testicular atrophy, reduced libido, impotence, depression and loss of muscular development.</p> <p>Male users may experience symptoms of gynecomastia tissue - development of breast tissue. More generally, male users may be at risk of accelerated male-pattern balding, acne, water retention, kidney problems, high blood pressure, heart problems, damage to joints or ligaments, and increased aggression or mood swings.</p> <p>Women may experience some distinct and different problems including development of facial or chest hair, lowering of the voice, changes to jaw line and throat, reduction in breast tissue, over-development of the clitoris (clitoral hypertrophy), reduced or absent periods. The use of steroids by younger people can lead to restricted height through premature sealing of the long bones and can interfere with the process of pubescent development.</p>
Overdose	
Legal Status	Class C, Schedule 4ii. It is a criminal offence to supply anabolic steroid without authority but no authority is needed to possess anabolic steroids in medical form.