



F38 Oral Lesions and Increased Risk for HIV Infection Associated With Methamphetamine Abuse

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to: 1. Identify the common oral signs and symptoms of methamphetamine abuse, 2. Identify the behaviors associated with methamphetamine abuse that place the individual at risk for HIV infection, and 3. Identify the common oral/perioral opportunistic infections and malignancies associated with HIV infection.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by showing attendees how to identify the oral signs/symptoms of methamphetamine abuse and recognize that this behavior places the individual at risk for HIV infection.

Methamphetamine abuse is rapidly increasing in the United States. The most commonly available form of this illicit drug has been called "crystal meth", "crystal", "tina", "krank", "tweak", "ice" and simply "meth". This drug is widely reported to be easily available in the urban, suburban and rural environments. Owing to the increasing availability of methamphetamine, the addictive properties of the drug and the behaviors associated with acquisition and use of the drug, many public health officials and law enforcement agencies have described methamphetamine abuse as a significant threat to the American public health and safety. In the crystalline form, methamphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant that is described as a "party drug" that can be injected, smoked, eaten, inhaled or inserted anally. Although this drug is used by all ages, races, genders, socioeconomic groups, its use is not uncommon in young, urban gay and bisexual men. Several lay and professional publications have described methamphetamine as the illicit drug most often abused by urban gay men. Anecdotal reports indicate that with "crystal meth" use there is an increased need for frequent and urgent sexual activity and the ability to have sexual relations for extended periods of time without ejaculation. Because dentists are often the health care provider to diagnose and treat the oral and perioral lesions associated with methamphetamine abuse and HIV infection, this paper will review the most common oral lesions associated with using "crystal meth". These oral signs and symptoms include oral/dental pain, xerostomia, rampant caries, fractured and missing teeth, periodontal disease and mucositis. Additionally, the authors will present data demonstrating how the use of "crystal meth" has been associated with shared needles and unsafe sexual activities which place the user at increased risk for HIV infection. A brief review of the common oral and perioral opportunistic infections and malignancies associated with HIV/AIDS will also be presented.

Oral Signs of Drug Abuse, Methamphetamine Abuse, HIV Infection