South Africa is the largest abuser of Mandrax in the world. Mandrax was originally considered a miracle drug for sleeplessness, high blood pressure and anxiety attacks. It was not considered a habit forming drug. It was later found that it has serious side-effects when taken with alcohol and dagga. People started breaking into pharmacies to get hold of it. It was then banned worldwide because of its misuse.

Methaqualone is a classic example of how everyone we expect to protect us -- our doctors, our pharmacists, our reporters, our regulators -- failed. The winners of the methaqualone debacle were the pharmaceutical companies that made them.
Crime syndicates started producing it because the market was already set up by pharmaceutical companies. It is a highly addictive drug and is smoked for a greater rush. The street value of Mandrax is approximately between R25-R65 per tablet.

Methaqualone is marketed in South Africa as illicit tablet formulations usually in combination with the antihistaminic drug diphenhydramine, and less frequently with the benzodiazepine tranquilliser diazepam. MX is a small tablet varying in colour that is highly addictive.

Mandrax is commonly smoked. The Mx tablet is crushed, mixed with dagga and smoked through a pipe or broken bottleneck known as a ‘white pipe’. Mandrax can also be swallowed whole or injected.

Shortterm effects
Relaxation – feeling happy (or laughing), calm and carefree
Confusion
Aggression – when the high wears off
Nausea and vomiting
Falling over and passing out
Sleep

Long-term effects
Risk of addiction – tolerance is built up rapidly
Decreased immune system
Convulsions
Mental and physical deterioration
Breathing becomes slower leading to respiratory failure, comas or death.
Symptoms of excessive use
Nausea, vomiting and stomach pains are not unusual. A user will often have red, glazed or puffy eyes, especially if the Mandrax is taken together with dagga.
Increased usage in order to achieve the same effects as before is usually the first sign of a full scale addiction developing. In many cases, users feel tired after taking Mandrax and may go to sleep for lengthy periods. Depression is also not uncommon and is part and parcel of the Mandrax ‘hangover’. This often leads to repeat use of Mandrax to counteract the negative and unpleasant feelings.

Withdrawal symptoms
Withdrawal from Mandrax takes place a few days after stopping use. Sleeping problems, nervous, anxious and irritable feelings, headaches, restlessness and eating problems are also common. Mandrax has proved to be a particularly difficult habit to break according to the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre.

If you have more questions about Mandrax addiction, you may chat to me. The service is free and you may stay anonymous.

Add me on BBM(7C4BB895) or whatsapp(825 576 9286) for professional and anononumus help.

Reference

Terminology and Information on Drugs, Revised Edition, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime

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