

---

## Chemical data

Formula	$C_{21}H_{23}NO_5$
Mol. mass	369.41 g/mol
SMILES	eMolecules & PubChem
Synonyms	Diamorphine, Diacetylmorphine, Acetomorphine, Acetylated morphine, Morphine diacetate

---

Heroin (diacetylmorphine) is an illegal, highly addictive drug and its use is a serious problem in America. It is both the most abused and the most rapidly acting of the opiates. Heroin is processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants.

Pure heroin is a white powder with a bitter taste. Most illicit heroin is sold as a white or brownish powder and is usually "cut" with other drugs or with substances such as sugar, starch, powdered milk, or quinine. It can also be cut with strychnine or other poisons. Another form of heroin known as "black tar" may be sticky like roofing tar or hard like coal, and its color may vary from dark brown to black. Street names for Heroin include Smack, H, Skag, and Junk, Brown sugar, Horse, Mud and Black tar.

After an injection of heroin, the user reports feeling a surge of euphoria ("rush") accompanied by a warm flushing of the skin, a dry mouth, and heavy extremities.

Following this initial euphoria, the user experiences an alternately wakeful and drowsy state.

Mental functioning becomes clouded due to the depression of the central nervous system.

Effects of heroin overdose include slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.