

Annex 5**A list of drug induced/related physical disorders**

Physical disorders	Drugs implicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV infection Undoubtedly the dominating complication of injecting drug use. It and hepatitis may be transmitted by sharing of injecting equipment. 	Injecting drug use most commonly heroin, also benzodiazepines, barbiturates, amphetamines, cocaine and anabolic-androgenic steroids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaundice, hepatitis B & C Hepatitis B & C are common among injecting drug users. Hepatitis may be asymptomatic to a fulminant attack, progresses to a persistent carrier state, develop into chronic active hepatitis, or liver cancer. 	Ditto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellulitis, thrombophlebitis, abscesses, indolent ulcers Common skin problem among injecting drug users 	Ditto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteraemia, septicaemia, candidiasis Which may be due to immunosuppressive role of the abused drugs*, arising from a localized infection site as abscess. 	Ditto (*Immunosuppressive drugs include alcohol, opiates, cannabis and cocaine)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary thromboembolism (clot to the lungs) Usually found in long term groin injectors with a sinus at their regular injection site. 	Ditto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lymphangitis, lymphoedema Which is due to repeated injection and superficial infections in the limbs, and subsequent obstruction to the lymphatic drainage 	Ditto
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver problems Liver damage and even failure can arise 	Hepatotoxic drugs include volatile solvent, MDMA, cocaine and anabolic-androgenic steroids. More prone if associated with alcohol abuse

Physical disorders	Drugs implicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory problems - Drug inhalation is associated with pharyngitis, bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia and tuberculosis. - Drug sniffing is associated with perforated nasal septum. - Acute respiratory distress due to ‘crack lung’ or opiate-induced asthma, which can be fatal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heroin, cannabis, methamphetamine (Ice), volatile solvents - Cocaine, heroin, ketamine - Cocaine, heroin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiovascular problems - Drug induced hypertension - Drug induced hypotension - Infective endocarditis due to sepsis when the heart valves are damaged - Toxic cardiomyopathy, cardiac arrhythmias, myocardial infarction due to drug toxicity and which can be fatal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amphetamines, cocaine, cannabis, MDMA, LSD, PCP, cough mixture, ketamine, anabolic-androgenic steroids - Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, GHB - Heroin, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, amphetamines, cocaine (when they are injected) - Volatile solvent, amphetamines, cocaine, MDMA, PCP, anabolic-androgenic steroids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthopaedic problems - Joint problems may result from direct infection, and bone infection (osteomyelitis) caused by septic embolism - Rhabdomyolysis, defined as necrosis of skeletal muscle with release of muscle contents into the blood, which may cause kidney failure and death. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heroin, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, amphetamines, cocaine (when they are injected) - All drugs of abuse, especially heroin, amphetamine, cocaine, MDMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renal problems - Kidney infection (glomerulonephritis) and kidney damage may result from abuse of certain drugs - Kidney failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heroin, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, amphetamines, cocaine (when they are injected) - MDMA, heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, volatile solvents, PCP

Physical disorders	Drugs implicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurological problems - Brain anoxia (low oxygen brain damage) due to drugs causing depression of respiration or blockage of the airways by saliva, mucus or vomitus when level of consciousness and cough reflex are depressed - Strokes (stimulant induced) arising from acute rise of blood pressure and bleeding in the brain, and the risk is higher for people with congenital malformation of small symptomless aneurysms - Seizure (fit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opiates, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, GHB, volatile solvents, ketamine - Amphetamines, cocaine, LSD, MDMA - Cocaine, amphetamines, sedative-hypnotics (upon withdrawal), MDMA, GHB.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproductive/Neonatal - Abortion, premature birth, still-birth - Foetal congenital abnormalities - Neonatal abstinence syndrome - Neonatal infection (HIV, hepatitis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opiate (withdrawal and intoxication), cocaine, sedative-hypnotics, alcohol, MDMA, amphetamines - LSD, MDMA, cocaine - Opiates, barbiturates, benzodiazepines - Injectable drugs especially heroin

The above account is not exhaustive. Individual drugs of abuse can also specifically induce disorders which can be haematological, endocrine, vitamin deficiency, electrolyte and metabolic, immune system, temperature regulation, gastrointestinal, dental, etc. We have to take note of the physical damages due to the vast number of possible combination of various drugs of abuse, illicit drugs with licit drugs, drugs of abuse with the various kinds of adulterants/additives, are not described here.