



# Drug Fact Sheet

## Peyote & Mescaline

### WHAT ARE PEYOTE AND MESCALINE?

Peyote is a small, spineless cactus. The active ingredient in peyote is the hallucinogen mescaline.

### WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?

From earliest recorded time, peyote has been used by indigenous peoples in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States as a part of their religious rites. Mescaline can be extracted from peyote or produced synthetically.

### What is its effect on the body?

Following the consumption of peyote and mescaline, people may experience:

- Intense nausea, vomiting, dilation of the pupils, increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, a rise in body temperature that causes heavy perspiration, headaches, muscle weakness, and impaired motor coordination

### Which drugs cause similar effects?

Other hallucinogens like LSD, psilocybin (mushrooms), and PCP

### What are common street names?

Common street names include:

- Buttons, Cactus, Mesc, and Peyoto

### What does it look like?

The top of the peyote cactus is referred to as the "crown" and consists of disc-shaped buttons that are cut off.

### How is it used?

The fresh or dried buttons are chewed or soaked in water to produce an intoxicating liquid. Peyote buttons may also be ground into a powder that can

be placed inside gelatin capsules to be swallowed, or smoked with a leaf material such as cannabis or tobacco.

### What is its effect on the mind?

Use of peyote and mescaline will cause varying degrees of:

- Illusions, hallucinations, altered perception of space and time, and altered body image

People may also experience euphoria, which is sometimes followed by feelings of anxiety.

### What is its legal status in the United States?

Peyote and mescaline are Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that they have a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.



*Peyote cactus*