

OTHER DRUGS

Since certain **tryptamines are effective treatment for clusters**, some jump to the conclusion that other illegal and psychoactive drugs are effective as well. This is not the case – so far as we know, only the tryptamine family relieves cluster headaches, and there has been experience with only a few members of that family. So far, there are two tryptamines that many consider effective and practical for the average clusterhead: psilocybin and LSA.

Marijuana – The consensus among cluster heads is marijuana actually triggers cluster attacks or makes them worse for many, and that it has no effect at all on clusters for others. However, there have been a few published case reports on marijuana relieving clusters, and a few say they find relief from the proper strain.

Mescaline – This drug from the peyote cactus has psychoactive effects much like the tryptamines, so there has been speculation it might help clusters. Mescaline belongs to the phenethylamine family (which includes ecstasy and the amphetamines), and so far reports of its effectiveness are few or none.

Opiates – Drugs derived from opium, whether illegal or legal by prescription, interfere with the tryptamine treatment. They are not generally effective for clusters. These very powerful pain relievers are useless in the face of a cluster attack; a few say they won't relieve the pain, but the strongest can make one not care about it.

Cocaine – This was once seen as a possible treatment for cluster headache by topically applying it deep inside the sinuses. It is generally considered ineffective and obsolete for this purpose. Few physicians can or will prescribe or administer it, and illegal sources are trouble.

Others – We don't know that any of the other popular illegal, recreational drugs are helpful for clusters. Now and then someone shows up on a discussion board claiming some drug or one herb or another is helpful. In most cases these claims don't pan out (this goes for legal herbals and prescription drugs as well). A few have stood the test of time and use by clusterheads – as the

tryptamines have, and kudzu, for example. So far as we know, none of the other popular illegal drugs are any help for clusters. This goes for methamphetamine, ketamine, phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust), dextromethorphan, salvinorin-A (salvia) and whatever the abused drug of the month happens to be.