

Cocaine-related cardiovascular complications

Elenelvelashvili

Georgia

Cocaine (benzoylecgonine) is an alkaloid extracted from the leaf of the *Erythroxylon coca* bush. It is available in two forms: the hydrochloride salt and the “freebase.” Cocaine hydrochloride is prepared by dissolving the alkaloid in hydrochloric acid to form a water-soluble powder or granule, which can be taken orally, intravenously, or intranasally. The freebase form is manufactured by processing the cocaine with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate. Its use is associated with a number of cocaine-related cardiovascular complications, including angina pectoris, MI, cardiomyopathy, aortic dissection, and sudden death. Cardiovascular complications resulting from cocaine-related MI are relatively uncommon, with ventricular arrhythmias occurring in 4% to 17%, congestive heart failure in 5% to 7%, and death in less than 2%.

Biography

I am a cardiology resident at Tbilisi State Medical University. I hold a Diplom Medico degree and work as a junior doctor. Additionally, I am a professional teacher and lead nurse education programs.

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