

Meth Mouth

Drug Use and Exposure, Recognizing Oral Signs

What is Meth?

Methamphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant that releases high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine in its users. It is highly addictive. It is readily available, cheap and used by persons from diverse backgrounds in all regions of the country.

What is Meth Mouth?

Meth mouth is a commonly used term for the damage done to the oral cavity by methamphetamine usage.

What does Meth Mouth look like?

Users of methamphetamine commonly suffer from severe tooth decay, gum disease, cracks in teeth and dry mouth causing significant bleeding and pain.



Why does meth usage affect the mouth?

Due to the acid content of the ingredients used to make methamphetamine, users have decreased strength in the enamel of teeth and often produce less saliva making the erosion of enamel greater.

Source:

- RDH November, 2002, Cathy Hester Seckman, David Weis, MD

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