

Citric acid for injecting Afghan / brown heroin

Information for clients

WHAT IS BROWN HEROIN?

Brown or Afghan heroin is different from the 'white' heroin usually found in Australia.

Brown heroin is not very soluble. This means when you add water to it, it just goes clumpy and doesn't dissolve. In order to be able to inject brown heroin you need to add an acid to help it dissolve.

CAN I USE ANY ACID?

The problem is that not all acids are good acids for diluting brown heroin. Using harsh acids like lemon juice, vinegar or non-sterile citric acid can cause a lot of pain and vein damage. They may also be full of bacteria which can cause infections including heart infections and maybe even blindness.

Sterile citric acid is the best to use. Using citric acid will help dissolve brown heroin and is less harmful than other acids. It's important to stick to citric acid that comes in sachets and don't use too much. **One sachet is far too much for one hit.**

WHERE CAN I GET CITRIC ACID SACHETS?

You can get citric acid sachets at community pharmacies and some Needle and Syringe Programs may have them available.

HOW DO I USE CITRIC ACID?

- Add a sprinkle of citric acid to the mix.
- You should see the heroin starting to dissolve. Gently heating the mix from underneath will help this along. You may need to add a little more citric if the heroin doesn't dissolve completely.
- Sometimes the mix may still look cloudy even after you've added a couple of sprinkles of citric. The cloudiness may not be heroin but something else in the mix like paracetamol. **It's really important to use a filter to get rid of the other stuff in the mix.**
- Adding more citric at this stage won't get you any more heroin. What you will have is a solution that could cause a lot of damage to your veins.
- **Throw away what's left of the citric as it's not sterile anymore.**
- **Safely dispose of all used injecting equipment.**