

# OASAS Division of Harm Reduction

## Xylazine Test Strips

**Xylazine**, a non-opioid sedative commonly used in veterinary medicine, has become increasingly prevalent in the unregulated drug supply in New York State.

While the presence of xylazine is underreported likely both in its geographic distribution and in its contribution to overdose deaths, available data indicates xylazine is widespread and impacting overdose mortality throughout the state.

Although found in combination with other substances, xylazine is found in the unregulated drug supply most commonly with illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Because of xylazine's increasing presence in the unregulated drug supply, people who use drugs (PWUD) are interested in having the ability to test their substances for xylazine prior to using them.

Xylazine test strips are designed to provide a rapid presumptive, qualitative result for the presence of xylazine. The xylazine test strips are inserted into a mixture of water and the substance to be tested, and they return a positive result when xylazine is present. However, they cannot test for quantity or potency of the substance.

### How do we use them?

1. 5mg scoop of the substance (enough to cover half the hair of Abraham Lincoln on a penny) should be added to 5mL of sterile water (1 blue vial) into a clean and dry container such as an aluminum cooker or the bag that the substance came in.
2. Holding the solid red end of the test strip, insert the end of the test strip that is marked with wavy red lines into the water and let it absorb for approximately 15 seconds.
3. Remove the strip from the water and place on a flat surface for 2-4 minutes.
4. After 2-4 minutes, you can read the results.

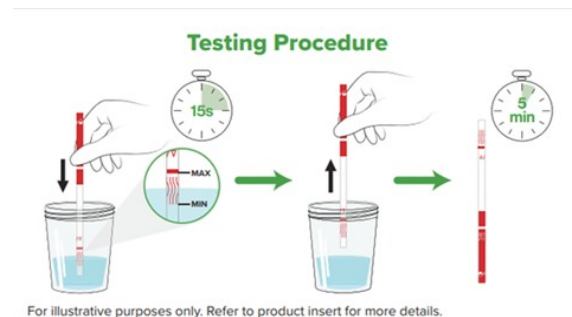
**Positive for xylazine** = a single red line appears

**Negative for xylazine** = two red lines appear

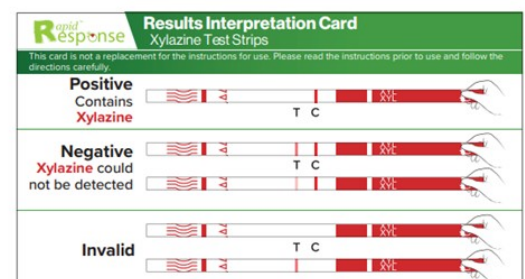
**Invalid results** = no lines appear at all or a single pink line on the right-hand side of the test appears.

With the exception of lidocaine, no other substances were found to exhibit false positives with the XTS.

[https://www.lochnessmedical.com/harmreduction/XYL\\_IFU.pdf](https://www.lochnessmedical.com/harmreduction/XYL_IFU.pdf)



### Results Interpretation



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