Drugs and the Body—It Isn’t Pretty

Nicotine. Heroin. Cocaine. Marijuana. Inhalants. Methamphetamine. Steroids. They all cause damage. Check out this diagram to find out how each part of the body is affected by drugs of abuse.

**BRAIN**
- **Honey, I Shrunk My Brain!** Inhalants can actually shrink the part of the brain that controls body movements.
- **Tired and Moody** A chemical called serotonin helps you stay in a good mood and get enough sleep. Ecstasy messes with the serotonin in your brain.

**LIVER**
- **Risky Rupture** Steroid use has been associated with liver tumors and blood-filled cysts. Both the tumors and the cysts can rupture, causing internal bleeding.

**IMMUNE SYSTEM**
- **Sharing More Than Needles** Drug abusers who share non-sterile injection equipment are at risk for contracting HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and other infectious diseases.

**NOSE**
- **No More Nostrils** Snorting cocaine can create pimple-like abscesses that can turn into raw holes. The holes can cut away the cartilage that forms the nose.

**MOUTH**
- **Not a Good Look** Ecstasy use makes teeth discolored. Some users need to wear dental mouth guards. Others actually use pacifiers.

**SKIN**
- **Pizza Face** Steroid use can cause acne pimples to pop up all over the face of a user.

**BONES**
- **Forget About the NBA** Steroid use can keep bones from growing. Abusers may never reach their full, adult height.

**KIDNEYS**
- **Boiling Over** Ecstasy users risk kidney failure when their body temperature soars and they become dehydrated.

**HEART**
- **Body Blocking** Steroid use can lead to blocked blood flow to the heart or brain. The result: a stroke or a heart attack.

**LUNGS**
- **Sticky Black Tar** Need we say more? It coats the lungs of tobacco and marijuana smokers.

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