Marijuana Information

Your Brain and THC
THC (9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the major active chemical in Marijuana. When smoked the following happens:
- THC travels quickly through the body into the brain where it unites with specific receptors on the brain. Those receptors impacted control pleasure, thought, memory, sensory, concentration, time perception and coordination.

A “typical joint” rolled in paper contains anywhere from 1 to 15 per cent of THC. THC content varies widely because some genetic strains of cannabis are more potent than others.

Addictive Qualities
There is no substantial evidence that Marijuana is physically addictive, however because it affects the receptors mentioned above, it can become psychologically or emotionally addictive.

Short & Long Term Effects
Long term effects of Marijuana are not clearly known but short term effects are well documented. The greatest short term effects are:
- Short-term memory and attention loss
- Loss of motor skills and dexterity
- Reduced reaction time
- Lower abilities to perform skilled activities

How Long Does Marijuana Stay in Your Body?*

Researchers studied prisoners and classified them as either occasional (once a week) or frequent (more than once a week) users.

In the infrequent users, the half-life of marijuana was 1.3 days. That means it took 1.3 days for the amount of marijuana in their blood or urine to go down 50 percent. For frequent users, the half-life was one to 10 days.

Then researchers continued to collect up to five urine samples per day until the urine test was negative for marijuana. For infrequent users, the time from the last reported drug use until the last positive specimen was five to 12 days. Frequent users took 22 to 27 days to clear their systems.

Many of the 21 volunteers had big gaps in their test results. They would have one or two negative specimens and then get a positive result.

High Risk Factors:
If you have any of the following conditions smoking marijuana can cause secondary health problems:
- Cardiovascular disease
- Asthma, bronchitis, emphysema or other respiratory diseases
- Schizophrenia (may exacerbate or precipitate an episode)

*information taken from: http://www.healthcentral.com/drdean/408/8665.html