

HEADS UP REAL NEWS ABOUT DRUGS AND YOUR BODY



Steroids: All-Over Horror

Some people take drugs called steroids illegally as a way to build their muscles. But steroids affect more than muscles. Read below how steroids mess with your brain and body. Then, finish the diagram. Write either how steroids affect the body part indicated by an arrow, or the name of the body part affected.

- Anabolic steroids are artificial versions of the male sex hormone testosterone. Artificial hormones affect the body in several ways. Men, for example, can grow breasts. And women can grow facial and excessive body hair, and get deep voices. Both sexes can experience **male-pattern baldness**.

- The drugs may also cause **stunted growth** in teens. When the brain senses too much of a hormone, it signals the bones to stop growing, even at a young age.

- Anabolic steroids cause problems in the brain, as well. They affect the **limbic system**, a part of the brain connected with mood. Some users experience very violent feelings. This condition is known as **roid rage**.

- Most steroid users pop pills but some inject the drugs. When they share needles, this can lead to the spread of **HIV** and **AIDS**.

- Finally, steroids make their way to the heart, causing potentially fatal **heart attacks**. They also pass through the liver, causing cysts and possibly **liver cancer**.

