hallucinogens

Hallucinogens work on your brain to distort the senses and cause hallucinations. People who have taken them may see or hear things that aren't really there. Or what they see may be distorted in some way.

Hallucinogenic drugs include: LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), magic mushrooms (psilocybin), ketamine, mescaline (peyote cactus), and PCP (phencyclidine). Cannabis and ecstasy can also have hallucinogenic qualities.

LSD

Immediate effects
Dilated pupils, higher body temperature, sweating, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, dry mouth and tremors. People can experience severe, terrifying thoughts and feelings, fear of losing control and feelings of despair.

Long term effects
Flashbacks or recurrences of an LSD "trip" can be experienced long after the drug is taken and its effect has apparently worn off. The "trip" itself usually begins to cease after about 12 hours, but some users manifest long-lasting psychoses.

MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Immediate effects
The short-term effects include: auditory and visual hallucinations, distorted sense of time, space and body image, nausea and dizziness, poor co-ordination, increased body temperature and sweating, sometimes alternating with chills and shivering, and paranoia.

Long term effects
Many poisonous mushrooms are very similar in appearance to hallucinogenic mushrooms and even the experts can find it difficult to distinguish one from another. Toxic mushrooms can cause nausea and diarrhoea through to coma and death.

The long-term effects of using magic mushrooms include: panic attacks, depression, anxiety, and paranoid delusions.

Although there are few known long term effects from hallucinogens, "flashbacks" however – are times when you feel the effects of the drug again – which can happen days, weeks or even years after taking the drug.