

Cocaine Activating Reward Circuit

What happens when cocaine either fits into there or what it realistically does more often, what happens when cocaine gets into the reuptake mechanism? It doesn't clear up. So, you see all these little X's, these little stars? They stick around. What do you think they keep doing? They keep landing back on these, telling the cell "Fire again, fire again, fire again". So, where maybe God designed it to fire once or twice, now, you've introduced something that is causing this thing to fire 20-30 times. And you are being over stimulated. Now here's why you would use that cocaine. If this nerve right here is going to that Nucleus Accumbens we talked about. Pleasure center, mouse with the lever.

Can you imagine if all of a sudden, you're telling that thing "Hit it again, hit it again, hit it again"? That's what's happening. Basically, it's causing a buildup of dopamine in the synapse. Cocaine blocks the dopamine transporter, causing an intensified response within the receiving cell.