

FAQs About Alternative Substances of Abuse

There were nearly 70,000 deaths in the United States in 2017 due to unintentional/accidental poisonings. We are experiencing an epidemic of opioid use disorder and overdose. One in five deaths in young adults is due to opioids. Patients are searching for alternative substances for use, misuse and to help with symptoms of opioid withdrawal.



Q: Why do people use/misuse loperamide?

At high doses, loperamide has the same effects as an opioid. Patients reporting using more than 80 tablets per day.

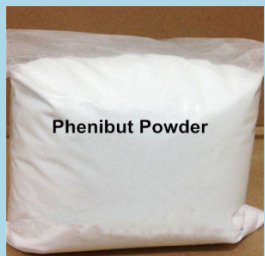
Signs of serious illness: small pupils; depressed mental status; unconscious; passing out; abnormal breathing; severe abnormal heart rhythms.



Q: Why do people use/misuse Kratom?

Kratom is an unregulated herbal supplement in the U.S. containing substances with opioid properties. The plant has been used for centuries in Southeast Asia. The active ingredient of Kratom is called mitragynine and it has opioid properties.

Signs of serious illness: small pupils; abnormal breathing; abdominal pain; yellowing of skin; seizures.



Q: What are some clues that someone is using/misusing phenibut?

Phenibut is an herbal supplement in the U.S. and is sold under names such as "Relax-All". It is marketed to help with anxiety or restlessness.

Signs of serious illness: unconscious; excessive sleepiness; abnormal breathing; muscle twitching; seizures.



Q: What are some clues that someone is using/misusing tianeptine?

Tianeptine is a prescription product in other parts of the world for depression and anxiety. In the U.S., it is sold on the internet and marketed as a "nootropic" agent. It has opioid effects at higher doses and that is largely why people are using it in the U.S.

Signs of serious illness: small pupils; unconsciousness; excessive sleepiness; abnormal breathing; passing out.



Q: Why are people using/misusing dextromethorphan

Dextromethorphan is a commonly available over-the-counter cough suppressant. When taken in higher doses, it makes people feel high. It is commonly misused by teenagers and adolescents because of their ease of access.

Signs of serious illness: Abnormal eye movements; agitation; anxiety; restlessness; sweating; severe changes in mental status.