

P50. TOXICOLOGY, PHARMACOLOGY, DETECTION AND LEGAL STATUS OF SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

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Synthetic cannabinoids (SCs) which are derivatives of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) have been problematic over the years and marketed as all natural herbal blends and commonly abused by smoking like marijuana. They also known by the name of “Spice”, “K2” or “Bonzai” which is sought by users for its THC like psychoactive effects and minimal legal regulations, perceived safety profile and lack of detection on routine urine screen tests.

The toxic effects of the SCs on central nervous system (such as agitation, confusion, anxiety, hallucination, paranoia, tremor, seizures and vomiting) and cardiovascular system (rapid heart rate, high blood pressure, myocardial ischemia, heart attack, tachycardia) are the most common reasons for emergency medical treatment, which in some cases can be severe and even life-threatening. The purpose of this review is to understand the pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic effects, detection, monitoring and legal status of SCs.