

PharmChem

# Newsletter

LIBRARY

DEC 27 1976

UNIVERSITY OF  
WASHINGTON

Vol. 1 No. 5

1972

We began the newsletter this month in our usual fashion: Library researches, long discussions, writing, rewriting and proofreading. Invariably we go to press with some misgivings. This issue is no exception; however, one circumstance makes the task a little more enjoyable. Effective immediately, we have re-initiated our Analysis Anonymous® program. To our regular readers, the difference of opinion with the federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) has become a matter of some importance. You may recall that a few months ago we were requested to collect names and addresses of persons who submitted drug samples for analysis. The part objectionable to the BNDD was that we were allegedly "aiding and abetting a felony and increasing the level of illicit drug traffic". We felt strongly enough about the value of Analysis Anonymous® to initiate legal proceedings. Fortunately, the issue is now resolved in our favor. There is a lesson to be learned here, but we do not think it is our function to espouse conflict with monolithic governmental authority. We worked within the system, did our share of agonizing and ultimately won. We maintain that "the people"

are entitled to unbiased information about "street" drugs.

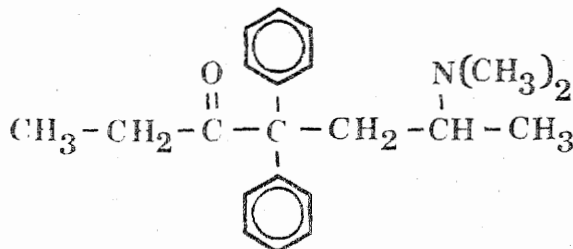
To the uninitiated, Analysis Anonymous® is a service we provide to anyone who is interested. We perform determinations on very small amounts of drug (capsule, tablet, powder, etc.) to establish true content. Our experience over the past 5 or 6 months indicates that only about 30% of the time does one actually get what he pays for from his friendly dealer. The whole procedure can now, once again, be performed on an anonymous basis. Simply mail a sample to us along with a 5 digit number of your own choosing. Telephone us 3 days later for a report of the test results, using this number for identification. (The \$10 you include with each sample helps our standard of living only minimally.)

To all of the people who sent in letters commending this service, and for the moral support from professionals and non-professionals alike, we are most thankful. A special thanks to the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention in Washington D.C. and to our kindly local law commune.

## METHADONE

Methadone is a synthetic narcotic with multiple actions quantitatively similar to those of morphine. Chemically, methadone is 4, 4-diphenyl-6-dimethylamino heptanone-3-hydrochloride.

There has been, and continues to be a relatively large amount of this potent drug available on the illicit market. Most of the methadone sold on the street is allegedly diverted by heroin addicts who are actively enrolled in methadone maintenance programs.



**History and Uses:** Methadone was synthesized in Germany in the 1940's from diphenylacetonitrile and 1-dimethylamino-2-chloropropane. It was intended to be a morphine substitute. Its principal therapeutic value consists in analgesia and sedation and it also has significant antitussive (cough suppressing) activity. An injection of 8-10 mg of methadone is about equivalent to 10 mg of morphine in analgesic effect. Methadone is about half as potent orally as when injected (parenterally). Oral administration results in a delay of the onset of action, a lowering of the degree of action, and an increase in the duration of analgesic effect.

Since 1968 methadone has gained wider and wider acceptance as a "treatment" for heroin addiction. It has been estimated that of the 650,000 heroin addicts in the U.S. about 50,000 presently receive methadone under supervised conditions. There are long waiting lists for most established programs and also for many new programs that are about to be initiated. A standard procedure among many of these programs permits an addict who has demonstrated his determination to "kick" to take home with him up to a 4 day supply of methadone. This is one possible source of illicit diversion. It is well documented that "junk" dealers will sell methadone when their usual sources of heroin are temporarily unavailable. This practice has, until recently, been undetected by victims of "junkie medacity".

The dealer's motives are obvious. He can sell inexpensive methadone for the usual \$10-15 bag of heroin. Adulterants such as amphetamines, quinine and sometimes morphine are added to "enhance" the effects of the pseudo-heroin or make it indistinguishable from the usual product.

Methadone has been used in conjunction with other illicit street drugs, usually with horrendous results. Janis Joplin, a popular rock singer, was a victim of alcohol and methadone. The individual already susceptible to catastrophic consequences from the abuse of alcohol in combination with barbiturates or tranquilizers is placed in a life threatening situation with the use of self-administered methadone. The innocent ingestion of methadone mixtures by non-tolerant individuals has resulted in cases of overdose and death.

**Behavioral and Physiological Effects:** Methadone is a highly addictive drug. The abstinence syndrome is quite similar to that of morphine but differs in that the onset is slower, the duration longer and the symp-

toms less severe. Repeated administration usually results in both psychic and physical dependence. Methadone, when used with other narcotics, tranquilizers, sedatives, hypnotics or anti-depressants (especially alcohol) can cause respiratory depression, hypotension, sedation, coma and eventually death. It impairs the mental and physical abilities to an extent where driving a car or operating machinery can become hazardous. Reactions to methadone include lightheadedness, dizziness, sedation, nausea, vomiting, sweating, euphoria, dysphoria (depression), weakness, headache, loss of sex drive, insomnia, disorientation and visual disturbances. Gastro-intestinal effects include, dry mouth, constipation and G.I. spasm. In addition, there are documented cardiovascular and allergic reactions that are of equal unpleasantness. There is a very serious possibility of overdose with methadone. Overdose is characterized by respiratory depression, stupor progressing to coma, constricted pupils, muscular weakness, cold and clammy skin, circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest and ultimately death.

**Other Comments:** Methadone, when used for the treatment of heroin addiction, is a potent double-edged sword. The civil liberties of patients voluntarily participating in maintenance programs must be carefully safeguarded. While methadone can help alleviate addiction to narcotics, it can also be used to control human behavior. In the hands of unscrupulous officials, methadone maintenance could be used to force addicts to report to enforcement agencies. Narcotic addiction is a medical problem not a law enforcement one. Methadone treats only a symptom of narcotic addiction, not the complex disease of addiction. Until the quality of life in our communities reaches a level whereby individuals can, hopefully and realistically aspire to their individual potentialities, we will have to cope with addiction.

Methadone is one of many schemes that permits society to cope. It is far from an idealized treatment for individuals with a medical problem.

**Bibliography:** *Proceedings of the Fourth National Conference on Methadone Treatment.* San Francisco, January 8-10, 1972. Copies available from National Association for the Prevention of Addiction to Narcotics (NAPAM). 175 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. \$8.00/copy

ON THE STREET

ACTUAL CONTENT	ALLEGED CONTENT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	STREET PRICE
1. LSD	LSD	clear gelatin squares, 1.5mm x 1.5mm "clearlite"	San Francisco, Ca.	?
2. LSD	LSD	green cylindrical tablet, 62 mg. "Berkeley Green"	Florida	?
3. LSD	LSD	blotter paper with gray spot, (3mm diameter) "Blotter LSD"	Palo Alto, Ca.	\$1.00/ea.
4. LSD	LSD	white powder	San Jose, Ca.	?
5. LSD	LSD	paper with gray green spot	San Francisco, Ca.	\$0.50/ea.
6. LSD	LSD	clear capsule 7mm x 21mm	Santa Clara, Ca.	\$1.50/ea.
7. LSD	LSD	-	San Francisco, Ca.	?
8. LSD	LSD	yellow tablet, 5mm x 3mm; 58 mg.	San Francisco, Ca.	\$0.25/ea.
9. LSD	LSD	orange grains "Sunshine LSD"	Florida	?
10. LSD	LSD	green tablet, crushed	San Francisco, Ca.	\$1.50/ea.
11. LSD	LSD	white tablet, 6.5mm(dia.) x 3.0mm(thickness), 125 mg.	San Francisco, Ca.	\$2.00/ea.
12. LSD	LSD	semi-transparent wafers: 1.0mm x 2.5mm, 1mg. "windowpane"	Palo Alto, Ca.	?
13. LSD	LSD	gelatin layer, 2.8mm x 2.2mm, 1.1mg.	?	?
14. LSD	LSD	blue cylindrical tablet, 14mm dia. x 3mm thickness, 55mg. "Blue Sunshine"	San Francisco, Ca.	?
15. LSD	psilocybin	pink powder in clear capsule, 17mm x 21mm	Menlo Park, Ca.	?
16. LSD	organic psilocybin	brown powder	Florida	?
17. LSD	psilocybin	large clear capsule with light brown coarse powder, 852mg.	Santa Clara Cnty., Ca.	\$2.00/ea.
18. LSD	synthetic psilocybin	pastel pink particles	Florida	?
19. LSD	psilocybin	clear capsule 7mm x 19mm with small amt. of brown powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?
20. LSD	psilocybin	brown powder	Florida	?
21. LSD	psilocybin	dark red tablet with blue specks dia. 6mm, thickness, 3.0mm, 119mg.	San Francisco, Ca.	\$1.00/ea.
22. LSD	mescaline	white powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?
23. LSD	mescaline	brown powder	E. Palo Alto, Ca.	?
24. LSD	LSD	red tablet, crushed	San Francisco, Ca.	\$0.50/ea.
25. LSD	mescaline	clear capsule (7mm x 20mm, 511mg.) with pink powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?
26. LSD	mescaline	blue tablet (dia. 7mm x 4.5 mm, 138mg.)	San Francisco, Ca.	?
27. LSD	mescaline	red tablet (dia. 6.5mm x 3.0mm, 115mg.) "Pink Mescaline"	Florida	?
28. LSD	mescaline	red capsule (crushed) containing pink powder "Pink Mescaline"	Florida	?
29. LSD	mescaline	white powder "White Lightening Mescaline"	Florida	?
30. LSD	mescaline	clear capsule with brown powder (17mm x 6mm; 247mg.)	Palo Alto, Ca.	\$1.50/ea.
31. LSD	mescaline	red and clear capsule (7mm x 20mm; 415mg.) with white powder	Palo Alto, Ca.	\$1.00/ea.
32. LSD	mescaline	tan granules	Berkeley, Ca.	\$500/lb. or \$75/oz.
33. LSD	unknown	brown powder in clear capsule (7mm x 20mm)	San Francisco, Ca.	?
34. LSD	unknown	blotter paper with gray spots (5mm dia.)	San Jose, Ca.	?
35. LSD	unknown	bright blue saccharin size tablets, (4mm dia. x 3mm thick; 55mg.)	Berkeley, Ca.	?
36. LSD	unknown	orange cylindrical tablet 2mm x 1mm; 50mg.)	San Rafael, Ca.	?
37. LSD and PCP	LSD	pale green tablet, 3mm dia., 1.5mm thick "Greenies Acid"	Florida	?
38. LSD and PCP	mescaline and flour	large clear capsule (20mm x 7mm) containing white powder (503mg.)	Berkeley, Ca.	?
39. PCP	THC	fine white powder "White THC"	Florida	?
40. PCP	THC	fine white powder "White Lightening THC"	Florida	?
41. PCP	THC cut with lactose	white powder	Mountain View, Ca.	\$1.00/ea.
42. PCP	THC	pastel pink powder ("Pink THC")	Florida	?
43. PCP	THC	fine white powder	Florida	?
44. Mescaline	mescaline fibers	small yellow fibrous buds	Florida	?
45. Mescaline	mescaline	white crystals	San Francisco, Ca.	?
46. Cocaine	cocaine	white powder	W. Hollywood, Ca.	?
47. Cocaine	cocaine	fine white powder	Studio City, Ca.	?
48. Cocaine	cocaine	white powder	Florida	?
49. MDA	MDA	white powder	Florida	?
50. MDA	MDA	white powder	Florida	?
51. MDA (impure)	MDA	brown moist powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?

## ON THE STREET

<u>ACTUAL CONTENT</u>	<u>ALLEGED CONTENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>STREET PRICE</u>
52. MDA	MDA	tan powder "Captain Marvel MDA"	Florida	?
53. Amphetamine	"Mexican bean" speed	small thin white tablet with cross marking (75mg.)	San Francisco, Ca.	\$0.10/ea
54. Amphetamine	unknown	white flat tablet with cross markings (75mg.)	Palo Alto, Ca.	?
55. Amphetamine	"benny"	white tablet with cross markings (54.8mg.)	San Francisco, Ca.	?
56. Methamphetamine	"meth"	white crystals	Daly City, Ca.	?
57. Methamphetamine	speed with strychnine	white powder	San Rafael, Ca.	?
58. Heroin	heroin	white powder	Napa, Ca.	\$75/gram
59. Secobarbital	reds	red orange capsules (16mm x 6mm) containing white powder (235mg.)	S.F. Bay Area	?
60. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
61. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
62. Marijuana	marijuana, speed and strychnine	green leaves	Florida	?
63. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
64. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
65. Marijuana	marijuana, opiated	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
66. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown stems	Florida	?
67. Marijuana	marijuana	green brown leaves and stems	Florida	?
68. Marijuana	marijuana with PCP	green brown leaves and stems	San Francisco, Ca.	\$15/oz.
69. Marijuana Resin	marijuana resin	dark green sticky paste	Omaha, Nebraska	?
70. Tobacco and unknown	tobacco and unknown	brown leaves	Florida	?
71. Lysergic amide	baby Hawaiian Rosewood	organic seed or button	San Francisco, Ca.	?
72. Unidentified	THC	red and white capsule containing small white beads 21mm x 7mm; 688mg.	Carmel, Ca.	?
73. Negative results	mescaline	white powder	Berkeley, Ca.	\$50/oz.
74. Negative results	unknown	white powder	Cleveland, Ohio	?
75. Negative results	unknown	pastel pink tablet	Florida	?

# Newsletter

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Palo Alto, Ca.  
Permit No. 244

Address correction requested



**PharmChem  
Laboratories**

1848 Bay Road, Palo Alto, California 94303 • (415) 322-9942