



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science - 2017

I41 Legal Substance to Become Psychotic?

Sebastien S. Prat, MD, St. Joseph's Healthcare - McMaster University, Forensic Psychiatry Program, W 5th Campus - 100 W 5th Street, Hamilton, ON L8N 3K7, CANADA; and Gary Andrew Chaimowitz, MD, Forensic Psychiatry Program, St. Joseph's Healthcare-McMaster University, W 5th Campus, Hamilton, ON L8N 3K7, CANADA*

The goal of this presentation is to inform attendees regarding the risk of various legal substances. This presentation will describe how people can be clever in avoiding testing positive on a urine test while using various psychoactive substances. Professionals should be aware of the risk of the internet and of the substances when traveling.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by informing attendees of the risk of new psychoactive substances that are currently on the market.

Psychoactive substances may have a negative impact on people suffering from psychosis. Many substances are well known to be the cause of psychotic relapses, including Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cocaine, and crystal methamphetamine, but new products enter the market, such as a synthetic cannabinoid a few years ago, and are often not to detect and, therefore, prohibit.

In the Canadian Review Board system, when an individual is found not criminally responsible for a crime and they are known for using illicit drugs, the Review Board is likely to prohibit them from using any illegal substances, unless this is justified for medical reasons; however, this becomes complicated when individuals use legal substances for their psychoactive properties. Indeed, although they may be prohibited from using any illicit drug, they are allowed to use any substances that are legal in Canada. The impact of these legal psychoactive substances, which can be caffeine or taurine, is unpredictable and depends on the brain's sensitivity.

This presentation reports the case of a 28-year-old man who was previously found not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder. While in the community, this patient looked on the internet to find some substance that would enhance his motivation, concentration, and calmness. As part of his legal disposition, the use of any illicit substance was prohibited; therefore, he sought legal ones, which is how he found kratom. A few hours after using this substance, he became acutely psychotic, with the main symptom being thought disorganization. The decompensation episode lasted for three weeks.

Kratom, whose scientific name is *Mitragyna speciosa*, derives from southeast Asia. Kratom is an opioid receptor agonist and has thus been used in managing chronic pain and opioid withdrawal symptoms. Kratom has been manufactured as a tea and sold from different websites because of its different effects, such as energizing or relaxing the person. Kratom is illegal in many countries and legal or under-controlled in some, such as Canada. Kratom appears to pose a public health risk.

This presentation seeks to describe kratom as a psychoactive substance, in addition to its impact on enhancing psychotic symptoms. This presentation will also address the discrepancy in the legal decisions regarding psychoactive substances among countries.

Legal Substances, Kratom, Morphinic