# NYSAM 2019 Clinical Case Presentations

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No Disclosures

#### 2019 NYSAM Case Presentations

Clinical Case Presentations Timothy J Wiegand, MD, FACMT, FAACT, DFASAM **Director of Toxicology & Associate Professor Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center** Rochester, New York, USA No Disclosures

# "All things are poisons, for there is nothing without poisonous qualities. It is only the **dose** which makes a thing poison."



Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, who published under the name **Paracelcus** was a Renaissance physician, botanist, alchemist, astrologer, and occultist. (1493—1541)

#### Clinical Case: 1A

- 35 yo male IT Specialist
- Emigrated from Russia 5 years ago
- AUD since age 17—in remission X 2 yrs
- Hx. of anxiety and insomnia for many years
- Hx. of emotional and physical abuse by father
- Used X Drug for past 2 years for anxiety, insomnia, and alcohol craving
- Ran out of X Drug 72 hours ago
- Presented with typical sedative/hypnotic W/D

#### Clinical Case: 1B

- Tremulous, Psychomotor Agitation, Tachycardia, Visual Hallucinations, Anxiety
- UDT: Neg: Opiate, Benzo, Barbiturate, Cocaine,
   THC, PCP, Methadone, Bupe, Methamphetamine
- ? X Drug
- Rx: Baclofen up to 60mg/day and then tapered + Tapering doses of Gabapentin
- ? X Drug
- Phenibut









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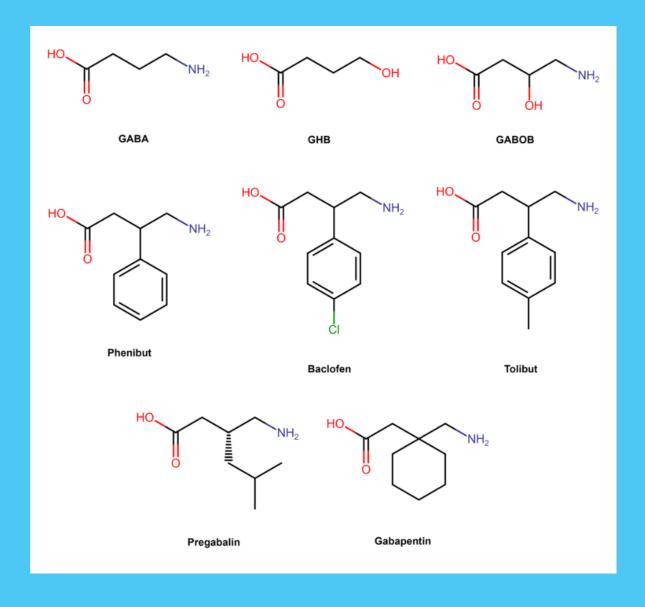
Home / Products / Phenibut HCL

Phenibut HCL

# Phenibut (1) History

- GABA analogue
- Synthesized in Russia in the 1960s
- Brand Names: Anvifen, Fenibut, Noofen
- Marketed for medical use in Russia, Latvia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Controlled only in Australia
- Widely available on the Internet as a supplement and nootropic(Cognitive Enhancement)
- Indications: anxiety, insomnia, depression, AUD, alcohol withdrawal, PTSD, stuttering in children,
- Soviet Cosmonauts Used in the Apollo-Sojuz Flight(1975)

#### Molecular Structures of Phenibut and Analogues



# Phenibut (2) Pharmacology

- Full Agonist at GABA-B Receptor (Baclofen)
- Binding to the  $\alpha 2\delta$  protein subunit of voltage gated Calcium channels in CNS/peripheral neuronal tissue  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  Ca influx  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  excitatory neurotransmitter release: same MOA as the Gabapentanoids
- Onset of Action 2-4 hrs: Peak Effect 6 hours
- Elimination ½ Life ~ 5 hours
- Urinary Excretion Unchanged
- Therapeutic Dose 250-500mg/day: Misuse 1-3 gms
- Reports of Rectal Administration with Rapid Onset of Action—30 minutes

# Phenibut (3) Treatment

- Overdose: Airway, Supportive, Death: Rare
- Withdrawal: Baclofen, Gabapentanoids,
   Phenibut Taper. 1gm Phenibut = 10mg Baclofen
- Maintenance/Relapse: Treat Underlying Problems leading to use.
- Similar to Benzodiazepines.

## **Next Case**

### Clinical Case 2A

- 44 yo male working in Hospitality Industry
- Past History of AUD (in remission 9mos),
   Tobacco Use Disorder, anxiety and depression
- Has tried different SSRIs and SNRIs with minimal +effect
- Purchased X Drug online from European source to treat anxiety
- Initially took recommended dose, then escalated dose for euphoric effect

### Clinical Case 2B

- Tried to reduce dose and taper, but developed withdrawal si/sx typical of opioid withdrawal
- Vehemently denied any opioid use
- Decided to go "Cold Turkey," but withdrawal was severe and presented to ED.
- In the ED his COWS score was 20.
- UDT: Neg-Opiates, Oxy, Methadone, Bupe, Benzos, Barbiturates, PCP, Cocaine, Methamp, Pos: THC
- EKG: Normal CMP: Mild elevation LFT's
- ? X Drug

# Tianeptine



# Tianeptine (1) History

- Discovered in France 1960s
- Prescription medication in Europe, Asia, and South America:
   NOT USA, UK, Canada, NZ, Australia
- Available online as dietary supplement and research chemical
- France 2012: Tianeptine → Controlled Substance
- Studies in USA(JNJ) terminated in 2012: ? Cost Issues
- Michigan 2018: Tianeptine Schedule II
- Brand Names: Coaxil, Stablon, Tatinol
- Indications: Depression, Anxiety, Asthma, Fibromyalgia
- "Doctor Shopping" in France for Tianeptine

Table 1. Tianeptine brand names in respective countries.

Aneptinex	SVK HU	
Atinepte	BU PL	
Coaxil	BU CZ EN HU LG PL RO RS SVK HR LH	
Lyxit	RO SVK	
Neluptin	LH PL PO	
Neptine	KS	
Neptika	HR	
Nobixal	RO	
Salymbra	EN	
Stablon	AR AU BR EG FR ID KS MT MU MY PO TH TS	
Staneptine	KS	
Tatinol	CH	
Tialera	BK BU HU PL	
Tianeptin Mylan	SVK	
Tianeptin Sandoz	SVK	
Tianeptina Generis	PO	
Tianeptina Lupin	PO	
Tianeptina Wynn	PO	
Tianeptine Mylan Pharma	FR	
Tianesal	PL	
Tianeurax	GE	
Tymogen	PL	

Source: Drugs.com; NATO country codes.





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## Tianeptine (2) MOA

- Atypical Tricyclic Anti-Depressant
- Full  $\mu$ -opioid and  $\delta$ -opioid( $\psi$ ) agonist: ?Dose Dependent
- Modulation of the Glutamatergic system
- Encourage Neuroplasticity: PFC, Amygdala, Hippocampus
- Minimal Anti-Cholinergic or CV adverse effects
- Therapeutic Dose 25-50mg daily
- Misuse Doses: > 3000mg

From: The atypical antidepressant and neurorestorative agent tian eptine is a  $\upmu\text{-}\text{opioid}$  receptor agonist

а	0 N-S=0
	N-S CI
	HN
	Tianeptine OH

b	Receptor	K <sub>i</sub> of Tianeptine	EC <sub>50</sub> of Tianeptine (G Protein Activation)
	Human MOR	383 ± 183 nM	194 ± 70 nM
	Mouse MOR	ā	641 ± 120 nM
	Human DOR	> 10 µM	37.4 ± 11.2 μM
	Mouse DOR	6 <b>5</b> 6	14.5 ± 6.6 µM
	Human KOR	No Activity	No Activity
	Rat KOR	15-33	No Activity

Summary of tianeptine's activity at the opioid receptors. (a) Chemical structure of tianeptine. (b) Radioligand displacement binding assay of tianeptine at  $\mu$ -opioid receptor (MOR; n=3),  $\delta$ -opioid receptor (DOR; n=4) and  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor (KOR; n=4). Tianeptine's functional activity at MOR, DOR and KOR are also summarized. Data represent mean±s.e.m.

#### Translational Psychiatry volume 4, page e411 (2014)

# Tianeptine (3) Pharmacology

- Onset of action ~ 30minutes po
- Not Metabolized by CYP450.  $\beta oxidation$
- Elimination ½ life ~ 3hrs. Renal & Hepatobiliary
- Active Metabolite: longer ½ life
- ? ↑ Hepatotoxicity > other TCAs

# Tianeptine (4) Case Reports

- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Treated with Morphine: No Teratogenicity
- Overdoses: Naloxone effective
- Withdrawal Syndromes: Typical Opioid W/D
- Overdose Deaths
- IV and IN Reports
- Toxic Fatal Leukoencephalopathy:
   Tianeptine level: 3,000ng/mL Therapeutic: 300ng/mL

# Tianeptine (5) Withdrawal

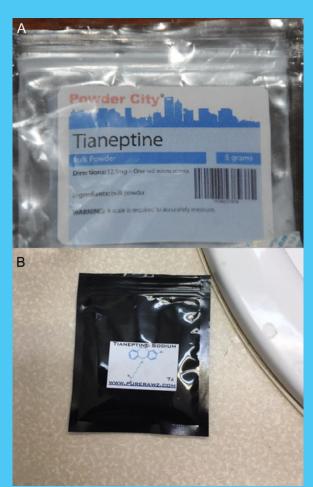
- Agitation
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Tachycardia
- Hypertension
- Diarrhea
- Tremor
- Diaphoresis

Tx: Benzos, Hydration, Antiemetics

## Tianeptine : US Fatalities

28 yo male with hx of AUD, TUD, anxiety and Depression. No suicide note

30 yo male on alprazolam For GAD. Syringe and needles found at the scene. Recent puncture site right antecubital fossa.



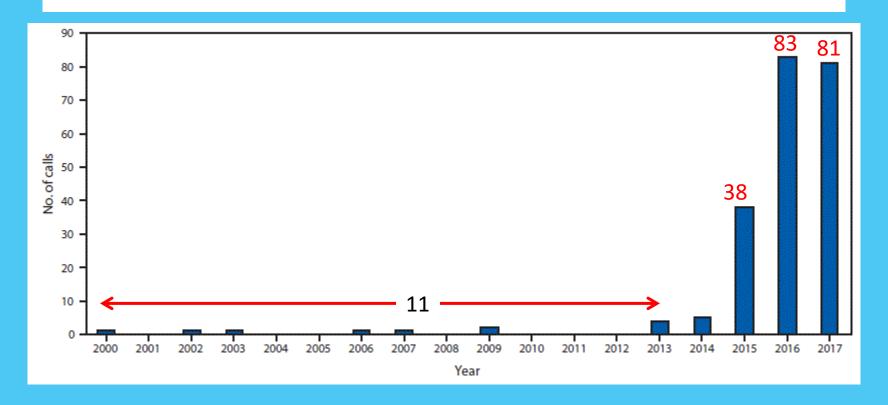
From: Case Reports of Fatalities Involving Tianeptine in the United States

J Anal Toxicol. 2018;42(7):503-509. doi:10.1093/jat/bky023

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# Characteristics of Tianeptine Exposures Reported to the National Poison Data System — United States, 2000–2017

Tharwat El Zahran, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Joshua Schier, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Emily Glidden, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Stephanie Kieszak, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Royal Law, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Edward Bottei, MD<sup>3</sup>; Cynthia Aaron, MD<sup>4</sup>; Andrew King, MD<sup>4</sup>; Arthur Chang, MD<sup>1</sup>



Number of Tianeptine exposure telephone calls reported (N = 218) — National Poison Data System, United States, 2000–2017

TABLE 1. Characteristics of telephone calls related to tianeptine exposure (N = 218) — National Poison Data System, United States, 2000–2017

Characteristic (no. with known information)	No.	(%)
Call source (218)		
Health care provider	198	(91.2)
Caller residence	13	(6.0)
Other	7	(3.2)
U.S. Census region (217)		
South	75	(34.6)
West	54	(24.9)
Midwest	47	(21.6)
Northeast	41	(18.9)
Sex (215)		
Male	177	(82.3)
Female	38	(17.7)
Age group (yrs) (213)		
<20	25	(11.7)
21–40	121	(56.8)
41-60	59	(27.7)
≥61	8	(3.8)
Exposure route (218)		
Ingestion —	183	(83.9)
Parenteral	15	(6.9)
Inhalation	4	(1.8)
Unknown/Other	16	(7.4)
Exposure type (218)		
Intentional	119	(54.6)
Unintentional	23	(10.5)
Withdrawal	29	(13.3)
Unknown/Other	47	(21.6)
Coexposure (83)		
Phenibut	26	(31.3)
Ethanol	13	(15.7)
Benzodiazepines	10	(12.0)
Opioids	10	(12.0)

TABLE 2. Common clinical effects associated with tianeptine exposures (N = 114) and therapies received — National Poison Data System, United States, 2000–2017

Clinical effect*	No.	(%)
Cardiovascular effect	37	(32.5)
Tachycardia 🗼	29	(25.4)
High blood pressure	13	(11.4)
Conduction delays	5	(4.4)
Neurologic effect	55	(48.3)
Agitation	25	(21.9)
Drowsiness Confusion	19	(16.7)
Comusion	15	(13.2)
Coma	5	(4.4)
Gastrointestinal effect	12	(10.5)
Nausea	9	(7.9)
Vomiting	5	(4.4)
Diarrhea	3	(2.6)
Dermal effect	10	(8.8)
Pallor	3	(2.6)
Pain	3	(2.6)
Cellulitis	2	(1.8)
Constitutional effect	10	(8.8)
Diaphoresis	8	(7.0)
Fever	3	(2.6)
Pain	1	(0.9)
Respiratory effect	8	(7.0)
Respiratory depression	6	(5.3)
Dyspnea	3	(2.6)
Tachypnea	1	(0.9)
Ocular effect	6	(5.3)
Mydriasis	4	(3.5)
Miosis	2	(1.8)
Renal effect	5	(4.4)
Urinary retention	3	(2.6)
Creatinine abnormality	2	(1.8)
Kidney failure	1	(0.9)
Metabolic effect	5	(4.4)
Electrolyte disturbances	3	(2.6)
Acidosis	2	(1.8)
Musculoskeletal effect	5	(4.4)
Muscle weakness	2	(1.8)
Rigidity	1	(0.9)
Psychiatric effect	2	(1.8)
Delusions	2	(1.8)
Therapy	_	
	40	(35.1)
Fluids Benzodiazepines	31	(27.2)
Oxygen	12	(10.5)
Naloxone	11	(9.7)
Antibiotics	11	(9.7)
Sedation	9	(7.9)
Antiemetics	7	(6.1)
Intubation	5	(4.4)
Ventilator support	5	(4.4)
Antihistamine	3	(2.6)



with the use of products containing tianeptine.

#### Case Presentations in Russia

- X Drug Approved by the FDA in 1981
- Highly misused: Obtained on Internet
- Often combined with opioids: ODs
- W/D: Seizures, Delirium, Tachycardia

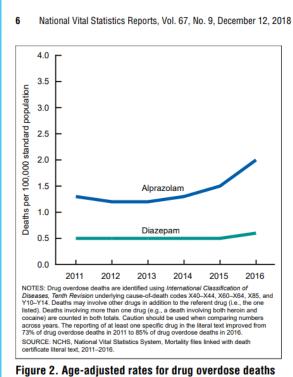


Figure 2. Age-adjusted rates for drug overdose deaths involving selected benzodiazepines, 2011–2016

# **NEXT CASE**

#### Clinical Case 3A

- 26 yo pregnant female delivers a term male neonate
- Patient has a past hx of OUD: oxycodone and IN heroin
- Successful Rehab Treatment 2 years ago. No MAT
- Attends evening outpatient rehab 2X week.
   UDTs: Neg→ opiates, methadone, oxy, bupe, cocaine, benzos, amphetamines +/-→THC No Alcohol/Tob 9mos
- Works fulltime as administrative assistant
- Admission UDT→ Neg
- At 24 hours of age neonate developed si/sx of opioid NAS
- Mother denied use of prescription and/or illicit opioids

### Clinical Case 3B

- Interview of the Father revealed that the mother was drinking tea 2-3 X daily, which she had purchased on the Internet. He thought it was a healthy herbal tea.
- Neonate UDT→Neg
- ↑ Finnegan Score: Rx Morphine → Resolution

## ? What Substance

### Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Due to Maternal Kratom Use

Whitney B. Eldridge, MD, Cherie Foster, MD, Lance Wyble, MD

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is increasing in incidence and most commonly associated with maternal opioid use during pregnancy. Nonopioid alternatives to treat opioid dependence are highly sought after in the country's current opioid epidemic. Whether Kratom, a legal, widely available herbal supplement, should be classified as an opioid is contentious. Although the US Food and Drug Administration has recently addressed this controversy, Kratom continues to be marketed as a nonopioid remedy for opioid withdrawal. Its use is increasing in the United States. We describe an infant with NAS born to a mother with daily Kratom tea ingestion to self-treat opioid dependence. Pediatricians and parents should be aware of the risk of NAS due to Kratom use during pregnancy.

abstract

PEDIATRICS Vol 142 (6) Dec 2018







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# Kratom = Herbal Extract Mitrogyna Speciosa









#### Kratom = Mitragyna Speciosa

- Kratom: from a tropical evergreen tree or shrub related to the coffee plant
- Native to Southeast Asia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea
- Used by indigenous population historically as a stimulant to enhance stamina and reduce fatigue
- Also used in traditional medicine for a variety of conditions including pain, diarrhea, cough,
   Opioid W/D, Depression, Anxiety

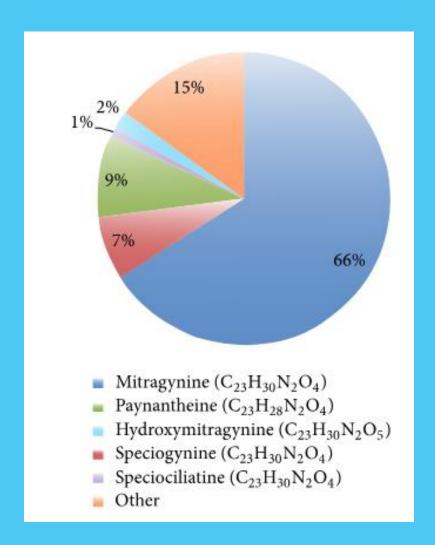
#### Kratom—Local Names

- Ketum
- Biak
- Thom
- Mambog
- Kakuam
- Krathom
- Thang

Of the 25 most abundant compounds in kratom, 22 are known to bind  $\mu$ -opioid receptors and to effectively act as opioid agonists.



An estimate of Thai kratom extract composition. The phytochemicals isolated from various parts of the tree include overall 40 structurally related alkaloids as well as several flavonoids, terpenoid saponins, polyphenols, and various glycosides



BioMed Research International Volume 2015, Article ID 968786, 11 pages

#### Kratom--Pharmacology

- Low Dose: 1-5g: Stimulant resembling caffeine/cocaine: ?MOA
- High Dose: 5-15g: Opioid Like Effects
- $\mu$  and  $\delta$  Opioid (?k) Receptor Agonist/?Partial
- 7-OH Mitragynine 13 and 46 > Potent: Morphine: Mitrgynine
- $\alpha$ 2 Adrenergic Agonist, Descending Pathway-NE, 5HT
- Animal self administration
- Analgesic and Sedation Effect Reversed by Naloxone
- Onset of action: 30 minutes: ½ life ~4 hrs
- Mitragynine inhibits CYP 3A4, 2D6, 2C9, 1A2
- ? Hepatic Cholestasis—dose dependent

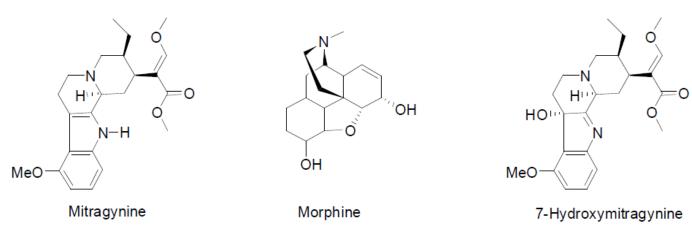


Fig. (6). Comparison of mitragynine, morphine, and 7-hydroxymitragynine.

#### **Kratom--Formulations**

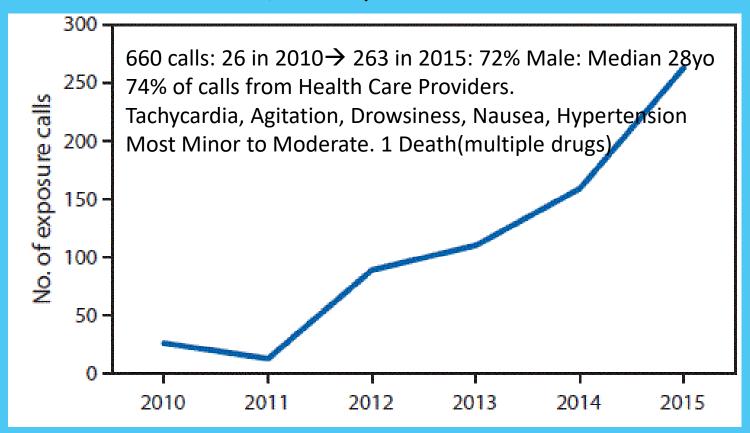
- Leaves—chew, brew tea
- Powder– capsules(po), smoke,
- Bitter Taste—Honey Added

\_\_\_\_\_

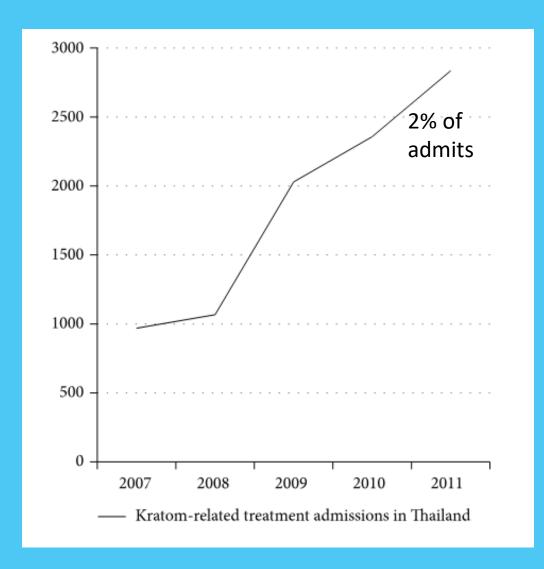
Krypton—Mitragynine+O-desmethyltramadol--Sweden→Fatal ODs

4 X 100—Kratom Tea+Coca-Cola+Codeine Cough Syrup+Ice Cubes Alcohol Mimicking Effect for Young Muslims

Number of reported exposure calls to poison centers related to Kratom use, by year — National Poison Data System, United States and Puerto Rico, January 2010–December 2015



#### **Kratom: Thailand Treatment Admissions**



BioMed Research International Volume 2015, Article ID 968786, 11 pages

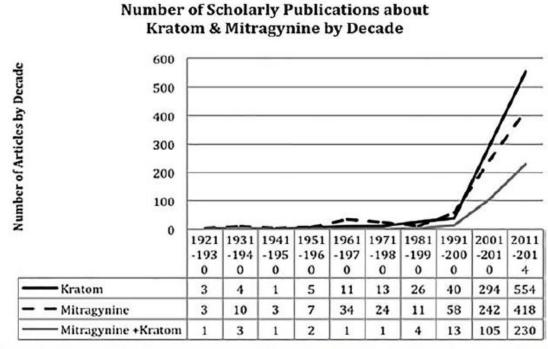


FIGURE 2 Numbers of scholarly publications about Kratom 1920–2014. This graph illustrates the number of scholarly articles published about Kratom each decade dating back to 1920. The number of articles published from 2010 to 2014 demonstrates a significant increase in research and scientific interest in Kratom.

#### Kratom: Adverse Effects

Table 1: Report of adverse/toxicological effects of kratom.	
Short time use effects	Nausea, constipation, sleep problems, temporary <u>erectile dysfunction</u> , itching, or sweating
Long time use effects	Anorexia, dry mouth, problems in diuresis, darker skin, and hair loss
Withdrawal symptoms	Hostility, aggression, aching of muscles and bones, jerky movements of the limbs, anorexia and weight loss, and insomnia
Infrequent effects	Seizures (individuals using high doses of kratom, either alone or combined with other drugs), intrahepatic cholestasis, psychotic symptoms, Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome, and hypothyroidism
Fatalities	Kratom mixed with other substances:  O-desmethyltramadol; propylhexedrine; over-the-counter cold medications and benzodiazepines; venlafaxine, diphenhydramine, and mirtazapine; zopiclone, citalopram, and lamotrigine

#### Kratom—Chronic Use

- Anorexia, Weight Loss, Constipation, Dark
   Pigmentation of the Face(个Melanocyte Stim)
- Deaths: Generally in combination with alcohol, other opioids, benzos, others
- Typical, but Milder, Opioid Physical Dependence, Tolerance, and Withdrawal Syndrome
- Secondary Hypogonadism

#### Kratom-Regulations

- Controlled Substance in Thailand and Malaysia
- DEA 2016: Consider Schedule I: Opposed by FDA and Congress-- +therapeutic effects DEA Blinked: Legal under Federal Law
- DEA: "Drug and Chemical of Concern"
- Schedule I in these States: AL, WI, TN, IN
- Primarily Used to Self Manage Chronic Pain,
   Opioid Withdrawal, Opioid Analgesic "Holidays"

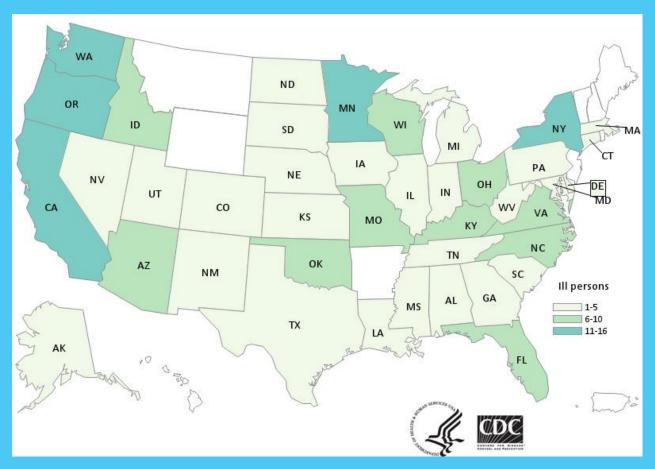
#### Kratom--Detection

- Not Detected on Routine Screening Immunoassays
- Mitragynine and 7-OH Mitragynine detected on GC-MS testing
- May be used by Patients in Treatment for OUD
- Detected up to 6 weeks post cessation:lipophilic

#### **Kratom SUD--Treatment**

- Buprenorphine Most Commonly Reported
- OUD Paradigm
- Maintenance or Withdrawal Management

### Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Infections Linked to Kratom CDC, Posted May 24, 2018



A total of 199 people infected with the outbreak strains of Salmonella were reported from 41 states. October 2017—January 2018

Thirty-eight percent of ill people were hospitalized, and no deaths were reported

#### **FDA Statement**

## Statement by FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on risk of heavy metals, including nickel and lead, found in some kratom products

Among the heavy metals we found were lead and nickel at levels not considered safe for human consumption. While the levels of the specific products we've tested so far are not likely to result in immediate acute heavy metal poisoning from a single use, some of these products included levels that, with chronic use, could cause some people to suffer from heavy metal poisoning.

The findings of identifying heavy metals in kratom only strengthen our public health warnings around this substance, and concern for the health and safety of Americans using it. To date, there have been no adequate and well-controlled scientific studies involving the use of kratom as a treatment for opioid use withdrawal or other diseases in humans. Nor have there been studies on how kratom, when combined with other substances, may impact the body, its dangers, potential side effects, or interactions with other drugs.

# "All things are poisons, for there is nothing without poisonous qualities. It is only the **dose** which makes a thing poison."



Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, who published under the name **Paracelcus** was a Renaissance physician, botanist, alchemist, astrologer, and occultist. (1493—1541)