



To: All Washington State Emergency Departments
From: William T. Hurley, MD, FACEP
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Subject: "2C-E" Abuse

The Washington Poison Center is receiving reports of patients abusing the hallucinogenic designer drug Europa or 2C-E (2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethyl-phenethylamine). Thus far we have not seen any deaths, unlike Oklahoma and Minnesota. Europa is a phenethylamine, chemically similar to 2C-B (popular in the 1980's), and distantly similar to mescaline. Other phenethylamines of abuse include 2C-I and 2C-T7. These are designer drugs commonly made in Europe, and sold as tablets, encapsulated powder, or powder for insufflation.

	Chemical Name	Street Name
2C-E	2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethyl-phenethylamine	Europa
2C-B	2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromo-phenethylamine	Bees, Bromo, Bromo mescaline, Nexus, Spectrum, Toonies, Venus
2C-I	2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodo-phenethylamine	
2C-T7	2,5-dimethoxy-4-propylthio-phenethylamine	Blue Mystic, Vanilla Aroma

Phenethylamines act as mixed agonists/antagonists at 5-HT receptors, producing hallucinations. They can also cause agitation and over-stimulation similar to amphetamines. The effects of 2C-E have been more severe than 2C-B and 2C-I. They are not detected via standard drug tests, but can be detected with GC/MS.

The phenethylamines 2C-B and 2C-T7 are illegal Schedule-I controlled agents in the United States. Other phenethylamines, like 2C-E and 2C-I, are not scheduled, but may be considered controlled substance analogs in legal proceedings.

Clinical Effects include mydriasis, agitation, hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, flushing, diaphoresis, facial dystonia (teeth grinding, grimacing), tachycardia, tachypnea, extreme/rapid cycling emotions, seizures, and rhabdomyolysis. Insufflation causes immediate pain to the nasal mucosa. With ingestion, onset of effects is in 20 minutes, peak effect at about 2 hours, and duration 6-12 hours. Law enforcement officers who encounter phenethylamine laboratories may report mucous membrane or respiratory symptoms.

Treatment consists of supportive care, including IV fluids, benzodiazepines for agitation, and monitoring for hyperthermia, seizures, and rhabdomyolysis. Cardiac monitoring is recommended in moderate-severe cases. "**Bad trips**" have been described to be alleviated by selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants, but this has not been studied and is NOT recommended.

If you have questions about this topic or any suspected poisoning case in your area, please contact the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. We have nurses, pharmacists, poison specialists, & Medical Toxicologists available 24/7.

William Hurley MD