



To: King County, Pierce County and Local Emergency Departments
From: Washington Poison Center
Date: 3/13/2016
Subject: Local Electronic Dance Music Festival & Drugs of Abuse

On March 12, 2016, a large Electronic Dance Music (EDM) festival will be held at the Tacoma Dome. Recently, fatal drug overdoses have occurred at or around similar EDM events in the area, despite a strict no-use policy from event organizers. Synthetic drugs of abuse such as Ecstasy (MDMA), Molly, Bath Salts, & other hallucinogenic amphetamines remain popular at such events. These drugs have stimulant sympathomimetic effects, and symptoms may be severe.

Many substances will contains more than one drug such as MDMA, MDA, methyline, LSD, BZP, and other hallucinogenic amphetamines. Many illicit substances can also contain adulterants such as cocaine, methamphetamine, levamisole, and prescription medications.

Clinical Effects: tachycardia, hyperthermia, hypertension, anxiety/agitation, hallucinations, seizures, coma and death. Serotonin syndrome may occur, with muscle rigidity, hyperreflexia, myoclonus, altered mental status, and hyperthermia, rhabdomyolysis and renal failure may occur.

Onset/Duration: varies with route of exposure. They may be taken orally, insufflated (snorted), injected or inserted rectally.

Onset: 2-60 minutes

Duration: hours to days

Treatment: Immediately assess internal core temperature as severe hyperthermia can quickly kill a patient. Aggressive supportive care is the mainstay of treatment, including: IV fluids, benzodiazepines for agitation, seizures for serotonin effects, and rapid external cooling techniques for severe hyperthermia. Cyproheptadine is not typically recommended for serotonin toxicity. Monitor for hyperthermia, seizures, rhabdomyolysis and electrolyte abnormalities. Patients may require higher doses than normal to control their agitation and sympathomimetic effects.

Board certified toxicologists are available 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.

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.