

To: Central-Eastern Washington Emergency Departments
Attn: Charge Nurse or ED Supervisor
From: Washington Poison Center
Date: 6/24/2016
Subject: Local Electronic Dance Music Festival & Drugs of Abuse

On June 24th & 25th 2016, the largest Electronic Dance Music (EDM) festival in the region will be held at the Gorge Amphitheater. Fatal drug overdoses have occurred at or around similar EDM events in the area, despite a strict no-use policy from event organizers. The 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 & life threatening.

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

Clinical Effects

Tachycardia
Hyperthermia
Hypertension
Anxiety/agitation
Hallucinations
Seizures
Coma
Death

Serotonin Syndrome:

Muscle rigidity
Hyperreflexia
Myoclonus
Altered Mental Status
Hyperthermia
Rhabdomyolysis
Renal Failure

Onset: 2-60 min

Duration: hours-days

Onset & duration vary with route of exposure. They may be taken orally, snorted, injected or inserted rectally.

Labs & Monitoring

Core temperature
Electrolytes
SCr & BUN
Urine drug screen
Blood alcohol

Treatment

Immediately assess internal core temperature as severe hyperthermia can kill quickly! Begin immediate aggressive cooling techniques in hyperthermic patients.

Aggressive supportive care is the mainstay of treatment, including:

- **Ice bath, chilled saline** for hyperthermia
- **Benzodiazepines** for agitation, seizures or serotonin effects. *May require higher doses than normal to control agitation & sympathomimetic effects.*
- **IV fluids**
- Cyproheptadine is generally NOT recommended for Serotonin Syndrome
- Dantrolene is unlikely to be of any benefit for tox-induced hyperthermia.

If you have questions or a suspected poisoning case, please call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 to speak with our staff. Board certified toxicologists are available 24/7.