

A Case of “Neptune’s Fix Elixir” - The dangerous consequences of unregulated use of Tianeptine in over-the-counter products

Priscilla Lozano; Maya Qutob, DO

Drexel University College of Medicine; Department fo Psychiatry Tower Health

Abstract

Tianeptine is an atypical tricyclic antidepressant approved for treatment of major depressive disorder in some European, Asian, and Latin countries, however is not approved for use in the US. Along with its serotonergic properties, tianeptine also acts as a full agonist at the mu-opioid receptor, creating sensations of euphoric highs and significant risks of addiction and withdrawal. For this reason, along with increased reports of adverse effects and fatalities, Tianeptine has not been approved in the US. Despite this, tianeptine continues to be accessible through unregulated online stores and small retailers under street names including “zaza”, “tia”, “tianna”, and ‘gas-station dope”. In this report, we discuss a case of a 34 y.o. male who presented to the ED via EMS after being found unresponsive secondary to the ingestion of “Neptune’s fix Elixir”, the main ingredient of which is Tianeptine.

Key terms:

“Neptune’s fix elixir”, “tianeptine”, “tianeptine abuse”, “zaza drug”, “gas-station heroin”,