

In the News

Topics taken from the Headlines

Silver Cross EMSS
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EMD CE

Following in the line of synthetic drugs such as bath salts and Ecstasy, flakka is emerging as a popular drug. Recently on the rise in Florida.

“Flakka” is cheap, potent and has been described as the next generation of synthetic drug that has been linked to a string of bizarre, sometimes violent incidents.

It can be injected, smoked, snorted or swallowed.

New Drug

<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/5-things-to-know-about-flakka>

- Review this short video on the effects of Flakka

News Clip on Flakka

Also known as “gravel” the primary component is a chemical called alpha-PVP, a potent stimulant that can cause bizarre behavior when used in high concentrations.

However, other drug combinations have been sold under the name flakka, including some powder forms containing a combination of cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

What's causing the strange behavior?

One of the key trends that flakka is going along with, is establishing an intriguing brand name. Anything the dealers have that they want to sell, they can, with that brand name.

It's not a reliable brand name and users don't know exactly what they're getting.

This is one of the real risks with the drug.

Buyer Beware!

- ✓ Increase in body temp
 - ✓ Sweating
 - ✓ Dilated pupils
 - ✓ Increased heart rate and B/P
 - ✓ Possible seizures or brain bleed
 - ✓ Violent behavior or excited delirium
 - ✓ Agitation
 - ✓ Psychosis or Hallucinations
 - ✓ Organ damage
 - ✓ Irregular Heart Rhythms
 - ✓ Death
- More potent than bath salts and Molly.

Effects of the Drug

Police say flakka played a role in an attack last month on an elderly woman in Riviera Beach. Derren Morrison, 27, of Palm Springs was charged with attempted second-degree murder after he allegedly knocked on the door of an 81-year-old woman and then repeatedly attacked her.

Morrison told officers he had consumed sweet liquor that day and was under the influence of flakka, according to police reports. He said he thought someone was going to kill him, according to court documents.

The Headlines

In late January, Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies encountered Strothers standing on the roof of a Lake Worth apartment building. He told deputies he felt delusional and was hallucinating, according to a sheriff's office report. Strothers also claimed that someone was trying to kill him.

The Headlines

Last month, Broward County authorities reported separate incidents of men trying to get into the Fort Lauderdale police station while under flakka's influence. One man had to be rescued when he was impaled by a spike while trying to climb over a fence that surrounded the station, according to published reports.

The Headlines

And last weekend, a 34-year-old Broward County man who allegedly smoked flakka was hospitalized for psychiatric evaluation after he ran naked through a busy intersection. Matthew Kenney told Fort Lauderdale police officers he was running from people whom he believed had taken his clothes and wanted to kill him, according to published reports.

The Headlines

South Florida crime labs reported more than 200 cases involving alpha PVP in 2014, compared to just six in 2013 and two in 2012.

Part of flakka's growing appeal, authorities say, is that it can be acquired cheaply, with a capsule or small bag in powder form selling for \$5 to \$10.

Trends

**HOW LONG DO YOU
THINK IT WILL TAKE
TO MAKE IT'S WAY
ACROSS THE U.S. AND
INTO OUR AREA? IS
IT ALREADY HERE?**

Trends

- What considerations would you have when receiving these types of calls?
- What protocol would you use for this complaint?

EMD Points to Ponder

The United States is currently experiencing a large, multi-state outbreak of measles linked to an amusement park in California. The outbreak started in December 2014 and has spread to more than a dozen other states. CDC urges healthcare professionals to consider measles when evaluating patients with febrile rash and ask about a patient's vaccine status, recent travel history, and contact with individuals who have febrile rash illness.

Measles

- Measles is an acute viral respiratory illness.
- It is characterized by a fever (as high as 105°F) and malaise, cough, coryza (upper respiratory symptoms), and conjunctivitis (pink, sore eyes) -the three "C"s
- The rash usually appears about 14 days after a person is exposed; however, the incubation period ranges from 7 to 21 days.
 - The rash spreads from the head to the trunk to the lower extremities. Patients are considered to be contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears. Of note, sometimes immunocompromised patients do not develop the rash.

Measles

- In 2000, measles was declared eliminated from the United States. Elimination is defined as the absence of endemic measles virus transmission in a defined geographic area, such as a region or country, for 12 months or longer in the presence of a well-performing surveillance system. However measles cases and outbreaks still occur every year in the United States because measles is still commonly transmitted in many parts of the world, including countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa. An estimated 20 million people become infected with measles worldwide each year, of whom 146,000 die.

Background on Measles

- Since 2000, when measles was declared eliminated from the U.S., the annual number of cases has ranged from a low of 37 in 2004 to a high of 668 in 2014. The majority of cases have been among people who are not vaccinated against measles. Measles cases in the United States occur as a result of importations by people who were infected while in other countries and from transmission that may occur from those importations. Measles is more likely to spread and cause outbreaks in U.S. communities where groups of people are unvaccinated.
- Outbreaks in countries to which Americans often travel can directly contribute to an increase in measles cases in the United States. In recent years, measles importations have come from frequently visited countries, including, but not limited to, England, France, Germany, India, and the Philippines, where large outbreaks were reported.

Background on Measles

- Common complications from measles include ear infections, pneumonia, bronchitis and diarrhea.
- Even in previously healthy children, measles can cause serious illness requiring hospitalization.
- One out of every 1,000 measles cases will develop acute encephalitis, which often results in permanent brain damage.
- One or two out of every 1,000 children who become infected with measles will die from respiratory and neurologic complications.
- Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) is a rare, but fatal degenerative disease of the central nervous system characterized by behavioral and intellectual deterioration and seizures that generally develop 7 to 10 years after measles infection.

Complications

- People at high risk for severe illness and complications from measles include:
- Infants and children aged <5 years
- Adults aged >20 years
- Pregnant women
- People with compromised immune systems, such as from leukemia and HIV infection

High Risk Population

Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases; approximately 9 out of 10 susceptible persons with close contact to a measles patient will develop measles. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Transmission

- Measles can be prevented with measles-containing vaccine, which is primarily administered as the combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. The combination measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine can be used for children aged 12 months through 12 years for protection against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chicken pox).
- One dose of MMR vaccine is approximately 93% effective at preventing measles; two doses are approximately 97% effective. Almost everyone who does not respond to the measles component of the first dose of MMR vaccine at age 12 months or older will respond to the second dose.

Prevention

- CDC recommends vaccinations for
 - Children – 1st dose between 12 and 15 months, 2nd dose between 4-6 years (at least 28 days apart)
 - College bound students – 2 doses (at least 28 days apart) of MMR if not previously vaccinated
 - Adults – born in or after 1957, without evidence of immunity, should get at least 1 dose of MMR
 - Healthcare workers and International Travelers
- For a complete list of recommendations and contraindications, visit the CDC page below:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm#recs>

Recommendations

- Does your center have a specific measles screening protocol?
- What EMD protocol would you refer to for the signs and symptoms listed in the measles portion of the presentation?

EMD Points to Ponder

- http://www.ems1.com/community-awareness/articles/2155245-New-drug-flakka-hits-Fla-county/?utm_source=2155411&utm_medium=email&utm_content=TopNewsRight5Title&utm_campaign=EMS1Member&nlid=2155411
- <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/5-things-to-know-about-flakka>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm#recs>

Sources