

Pump-It Powder" Emerges as Latest Synthetic Drug of Concern

First there was K2 (Spice) and the slew of synthetic cannabinoids. Then came bath salts; they were new and they were legal. These drugs were available and sold as over-the-counter products in an international web-based marketplace. Many of them were sold in head shops and medical marijuana clinics in the United States. But now these synthetics are all banned, well, most of them anyway. But into the fray now comes "*Pump-It Powder*," an "enhanced plant vitamin." It's the latest synthetic drug to be manufactured and sold under the ruse of a substance, "not intended for human consumption."



With myriad bath salts and plant food products available in the marketplace, uncertainty already reigns. No one quite knows what is in these synthetics. The Internet is full of supposition, but it is not clear at all what manufacturers are putting into their final products. Nevertheless, a great deal of discussion has centered on the role of geranamine as primary constituent of *Pump-It*. Geranamine is also known as methylhexanamine, an old-time amphetamine-related stimulant and decongestant that is found naturally in the geranium plant, hence its name. Methylhexanamine is a legal substance; it is not scheduled by the DEA. The drug has not been widely studied. It was patented in 1944 and for the most part has been dormant since that time. But in the world of energy drinks and aphrodisiac potions, methylhexanamine has been a prime player. Users of *Pump-It* have flooded Internet message boards with questions and stories about the product. It is the users who we should turn to for expert opinion. From what our MEDTOX DAR instructor-experts can determine, *Pump-It Powder* indeed performs in a way that is similar to those effects that would be expected with the use of methylhexanamine. But, then again, many users purport the drug to be quite similar to pre-ban bath salts that contained MDPV. Many in fact report that *Pump It* powder has become an addictive routine.

We do know that emergency rooms have begun to feel the sting of *Pump-It Powder*. Patients have reported to the emergency rooms having suffered seizures, hallucinations, and paranoia. Users report to physicians that they are experiencing effects that are similar, but more powerful than, cocaine and methamphetamine. The drug appears to have a regional appeal. *Pump-It Powder* is popular in the Midwest and plains states. It does not have a great following on the Pacific Coast, yet. It can be found on the Internet, but more alarmingly is the fact that it is available as an over-the-counter product in gas stations and novelty stores.

Of great concern is the potential effect that this drug has on teenagers. It is easy to find and it is relatively cheap, \$30 for a tin container packed with the powder. The drug can be snorted or "bumped," injected, or smoked. Of additional concern is that the onset of this drug's high is somewhat delayed. This situation then prompts users to "bump" a double or triple dose because the onset of effects is not felt right away. Those actions then lead to absorption of a

hyper dose and the experience of grossly exaggerated effects and a likely trip to the hospital.

Like bath salts, a *Pump-It Powder* high will trigger DAR signs and symptoms that are consistent with both central nervous system stimulants and hallucinogens. Heart rate, body temperature, and the internal clock will all be accelerated. The pupils will dilate and may exhibit sluggishness in response to direct light. There may be piloerection (gooseflesh) and user claims of sensory distortions. Users may exhibit behaviors of gross paranoia. The high will last for 4-6 hours, although some users claim that they were held "high" for 12 hours and longer. The symptoms appear to be dose dependent.

Stay tuned to the MEDTOX Journal for further news about this drug and others like it. Readers with questions or stories involving *Pump-It Powder* may contact agilberts@medtox.com at the MEDTOX Journal.