

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Hallucinogenic Tryptamines AMT and Foxy Gain Popularity in U.S.; DEA Temporarily Places Drugs into Schedule I of Controlled Substances Act

What is a tryptamine? A tryptamine is a nonhallucinogenic chemical from which some hallucinogenic drugs can be derived. Tryptamine exists naturally in some plants, fungi, and animals and can also be produced synthetically. Two synthetic tryptamines, alpha-methyltryptamine (AMT) and 5-methoxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine (also known as Foxy), have gained popularity over the last few years among teens and young adults, particularly at raves, clubs, and other social venues. Other synthetic tryptamines include 2C-T-7 (Blue Mystic), dimethyltryptamine (DMT), and psilocybin (mushrooms).

What are the street names for AMT and Foxy? AMT is referred to as Spirals, Amtrak, and Amthrax. Foxy is also known as Foxy Methoxy.

How are AMT and Foxy ingested? Both AMT and Foxy are usually taken orally, but can be snorted or smoked. An average dose of AMT can last from 12 to 24 hours while an average dose of Foxy can last from three to six hours.

Who uses AMT and Foxy? Since 1999, AMT and Foxy have been encountered by law enforcement officials in 16 states and the District of Columbia. For example, there have been reports of abuse at both clubs and raves in Arizona, California, Florida and New York. The attempted production of AMT and Foxy has been reported in Nevada, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

What do AMT and Foxy look like? Foxy may be in powder, tablet, or capsule form. Tablets may be purple or red and may have a spider or alien marking on it. Foxy capsules usually contain a powder that is either blue, green, tan, orange, gray, or pink. AMT is often found in an off-white or orange crystal powder but can be in capsule or tablet form as well.

What are the effects of AMT and Foxy? Effects for both substances include an increase in energy, hallucinations with both visual and auditory distortions, euphoria, empathy, and emotional distress. Some users may experience nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. People also report nervous tension, irritability, restlessness, inability to sleep, blurry vision, and dilated pupils.

Are AMT and Foxy illegal drugs? In April 2003, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) temporarily placed both AMT and Foxy into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), which would allow the imposition of criminal sanctions on anyone who is found to manufacture, distribute, or be in possession of either substance.

SOURCE: A complete list of sources is available on the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu).

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