

Drug Status Report

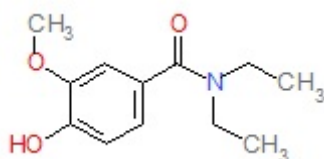
Drug: Ethamivan

Drug Name Status: Ethamivan is the common name

Chemical Name: 3-methoxy-4-hydroxybenzoic acid diethylamide

Other Names: N,N-diethyl-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-benzamide; N,N-diethyl-vanillamide; Etamivan

Chemical structure:



Molecular Formula: C₁₂H₁₇NO₃

Pharmacological class / Application: Respiratory analeptic

International status:

US: Ethamivan is not listed on the schedules to the CSA and is not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substance is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: Ethamivan is a respiratory analeptic drug which has been shown to produce stimulative effects on the respiratory centre and central nervous system^{1,2}. Ethamivan has mainly been for the treatment of chronic respiratory diseases³ but has also been used for the treatment of

¹Hirsh, K. and Wang, SC. (1975) Respiratory stimulant effects of ethamivan and picrotoxin, J. Pharmacol. Expt. Ther. **193**:657-663.

²Edwards, G. and Griffin, JP. (1970) A comparative study of two respiratory stimulants ethamivan and taloximine, Eur. J. Clin. Pharmacol. **3**:18-22.

³Sproule, BJ. *et al.* (1964) Effects of ethamivan in patients with chronic respiratory disease. Can Med. Assoc. J. **5**:1203-1208.

barbiturate overdose⁴. However, recent clinical uses of ethamivan does not appear to be prevalent. There is one report in the literature where ethamivan is considered to be a substance of abuse⁵ but the substance is not listed specifically in the CDSA and is not structurally similar to any of the substances in the Schedules to the CDSA.

Recommendation: Ethamivan is not included in any of the Schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

January 8th, 2010

⁴Wheeldon, PJ. And Perry, AW. (1963) The use of ethamivan in the treatment of barbiturate poisoning. Can. Med. Assoc. J. **89**:20-22.

⁵Ma, C *et al.* (1998) Studies on analytical method for 10 drugs of abuse in urine using HPLC, Yaoxue Xuebao, **33**:764-767.