

Drug Status Report

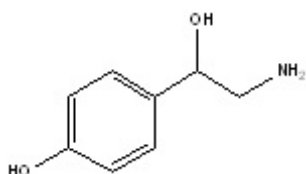
Drug: *p*-hydroxyphenylethanolamine

Drug Name Status: Octopamine is a common name.

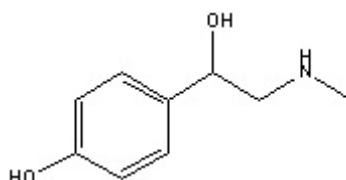
Chemical Name: α -(aminomethyl)-4-hydroxybenzenemethanol

Other Names: α -(aminomethyl)-*p*-hydroxybenzyl alcohol; 1-(*p*-hydroxyphenyl)-2-aminoethanol; norsympatol; norsynephrine

Chemical structure:



p-hydroxyphenylethanolamine
(Norsynephrine)



p-hydroxyphenylmethylaminoethanol
(Synephrine)

Molecular Formula: C₈H₁₁NO₂

Pharmacological class / Application: Biogenic amine

International status:

US: The drug is not currently listed on the Schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act and is not mentioned anywhere on the DEA website.

United Nations: The drug is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control. The drug is not listed on the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control

Canadian Status: *p*-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is a phenol analog of noradrenaline and is a major neurotransmitter in invertebrates where it is synthesized from *p*-tyramine by the enzymatic action of dopamine- β -hydroxylase¹. The substance is also found in some foods, namely Bitter Orange (*Citrus aurantium*), and is marketed as a dietary supplement for appetite suppression². *p*-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is not similar to any of the substances listed in the Schedules to

¹Broadley, KJ. (2010) The vascular effects of trace amines and amphetamines, *Pharmacol. Therap.* **124**:363-375.

²Putzbach, K. *et al.* (2007) Determination of Bitter Orange alkaloids in dietary supplements standard reference materials by liquid chromatography with ultraviolet absorbance and fluorescence detection. *J. Chromatogr.* **1156**:304-311.

the CDSA. A review of the *N*-methylated substance, synephrine, also concluded that it was not controlled under the CDSA.

Recommendation *p*-Hydroxyphenylethanolamine is not included in the schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

May 17, 2010