

4-paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA) or 'death' related poisonings in South Australia in the 1990s was believed to be responsible for the deaths of up to 30 people.⁶ Fortunately, the structure of PMA is similar to that of amphetamine so it is strongly crossreactive with the immunoassay screening methods used by most toxicology laboratories in Australia. Any re-emergence of this drug should be easily detected.

The structure of mephedrone and methylone sufficiently reduces their immunoreactivity, so drug testing may produce false negative results for sympathomimetics, even in overdose. The 2-aminoindane class of sympathomimetics may be

sufficiently different structurally to evade not only detection but also the Australian legal description of analogues of controlled substances.

Conclusion

Many medical products are sold over the internet. Some of these products do not contain what the consumer expects. The internet may also be used to sell psychoactive substances with unpredictable effects. <

Conflict of interest: none declared

See also page 29, Medicines Safety Update: *Caveat emptor* 'buyer beware' – the risks of purchasing unregistered medicines online. Aust Prescr 2012;35:29.

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Book review

Therapeutic Guidelines: Neurology. Version 4.

Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited; 2011. 242 pages.

Neurology is a highly specialised branch of medicine that never ceases to amaze with its clinical presentations. It has always had the potential to pose multiple clinical challenges to most practitioners. For these reasons, Therapeutic Guidelines: Neurology for me has proven to be the perfect mentor. The chapters provide clear, concise and evidence-based information on both the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of neurological conditions encountered frequently in general practice. 'Getting to know your drugs' is a brief but complete summary of drugs used in neurology, with reliable information on the important drug interactions and

precautions to be considered when treating patients. The appendices on monitoring antiepileptic drugs and sources of information are of great clinical value, as is the section on pregnancy and breastfeeding. Regular use of tables and flow charts makes it easy to read and user-friendly.

Therapeutic Guidelines: Neurology is the ultimate neurology reference tool. I recommend it for all medical practitioners, medical students and even allied health professionals, such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists, involved in the rehabilitation of patients with chronic neurological disease. All essential information required for a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to the management of patients is contained in this great resource.

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