

Pervitin

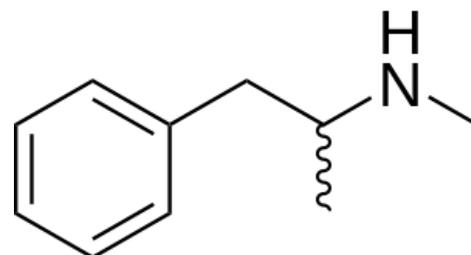
Pervitin (*gingerbread, piko, péčko, feather, parno, čeko*) is a central sympathomimetic, which ranks among **stimulating amines**. In the Czech Republic, meth is now one of the most widespread illegal drugs with a high potential for addiction.

History

Its effects were studied at the beginning of the 20th century, but it was still considered non-addictive in the 1930s. Along with other representatives of stimulating amines, it was widely used as a medicine against fatigue, narcolepsy, excessive appetite or to increase the performance of combat units.

Chemical properties

Pervitin (**methamphetamine**, with the systematic name *(2S) N-methyl-1-phenylpropan-2-amine*^[1]) is structurally similar to the simpler amphetamine, but is a more effective **psychostimulant**. Pure occurs in the form of a white microcrystalline powder, odorless and with a bitter taste. Residues of substances used in home production can cause a purple or yellow color. The starting substance for production is ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, red phosphorus is also used, among other things. An imperfect "boil" can result in production of an intermediate product, whose toxic ingredients greatly increase the health risks of use for the user.



Methamphetamine

Usage

The most common way of application is **intravenous**, as the effect starts almost immediately. By **sniffing**, the effect occurs in 5-10 minutes, **by taking it orally** within an hour. Recently, smoking from a glass stick has also become popular, where a hollow glass stick is heated from below with a lighter, the substance inside melts and the released vapours are inhaled into the lungs. Doses range from 50-250 mg, experienced users apply up to 500 mg at a time. Much smaller doses (15-20 mg) were used for medicinal purposes. Symptoms of intoxication subside after 8-24 hours. It is excreted from the body in the urine, in which it can still be evident 14 days after use.

Effects

It acts as a psychostimulant. In the CNS, methamphetamine **increases the concentration of mediators** (dopamine, noradrenaline, serotonin) after it wears off, there is a lack of neurotransmitters, which causes an unpleasant state, called a "ride", during which the user falls into depression and feels **severe exhaustion**. After using meth, there is euphoria, an accelerated flow of thoughts and an increased ability to concentrate. The psychomotor pace accelerates, the frequency of breathing increases. **It represents a significant burden on the cardiovascular system - it causes hypertension, tachycardia, and can cause arrhythmias**. The organism can work until complete exhaustion **without subjective signs of fatigue**. The user subjectively has no need to drink, eat or sleep. On the other hand, with long-term use, hallucinations, paranoia, states of confusion and inability to concentrate occur. It is interesting that during prolonged abuse, the so-called "ride", the user may lose consciousness after intoxication and fall into a deep sleep or unconsciousness for several hours, and it is only after waking up that the psychostimulant effect of the substance begins.

Intoxication

Acute intoxication is manifested by hyperactivity, severe restlessness and headaches. Mydriasis is evident and tachycardia or arrhythmia is usually present. Other symptoms are a rise in body temperature and chest pain. An intoxicated person may become unconscious. As a result of **chronic use**, toxic psychosis can arise (typically feelings of persecution - the so-called **chaser**), depression appears (especially if the user does not have the drug) and significant anxiety. Feelings of tension, irritability and sleep disturbances are common. Use causes loss of appetite, with long-term abuse the risk of anorexia increases.

- A long-term user is usually thin, doesn't sleep, is hyperactive, and talks all the time (**thought jet**). Visibly damaged teeth are usually visible, as intoxication slows down the production of salivary glands and bruxism occurs (methamphetamine itself also apparently demineralizes tooth enamel).

Links

Related Articles

- Abuse and intoxication
- Amphetamine

References

1. *PubChem Compound* [database]. -. National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, [cit. 2014-05-13]. <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/summary/summary.cgi?cid=66124&loc=ec_rcs>.

Used literature

- KALINA, Kamil, et al. *Drogy a drogové závislosti : mezioborový přístup*. 1. edition. Praha : Úřad vlády České republiky, 2003. vol. 1. ISBN 80-86734-05-6.