

# RESTPIT.ORG

## Public Statement

**\*\*\*ALERT\*\*\***

**\*\*\*FENTANYL found in sample of KETAMINE\*\*\***

OCT 24, 2023

Location : Central Texas

### **Details:**

Over the past weekend, Oct 20-23, 2023, a small baggie of unknown substance was presented to RestPit.org for identification. The substance was a white crystalline powder. The person who presented the sample said it had been found and upon inspection, "tasted like Ketamine". The person took a small dose assuming it was Ketamine and awoke 9 hours later.

### Testing:

1. All the powder was placed into the center of a testing plate then scanned with a raman handheld spectrometer.  
The sample was identified as Ketamine HCL by the raman spectrometer.
2. Tiny portions of the sample were tested using destructive colorimetric testing via TN Scientific Reagent Test Kit.  
The tiny samples were identified as Ketamine by the TN Scientific Reagent Test Kit.
3. Due to the submitters' concerns of other substances being present, as indicated by the prolonged period of unconsciousness, ALL of the remaining white crystalline powder was liquified in a 0.9% saline solution and tested via a TN Scientific Fentanyl Test Strip.  
The liquified solution tested **POSITIVE FOR FENTANYL** by the TN Scientific Fentanyl Test Strip. A second test strip confirmed the first.

Sample was destroyed.

### **Things to know:**

#### **Ketamine:**

"Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic used medically for induction and maintenance of anesthesia. It is also used as a treatment for depression, a pain management tool, and as a recreational drug."(1) "It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines."(2) "When used as a recreational drug, it is found both in powder and liquid

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form, and is often referred to as "Special K" for its hallucinogenic and dissociative effects.”(3) “At sub-anesthetic doses ketamine produces a dissociative state, characterized by a sense of detachment from one's physical body and the external world that is known as depersonalization and derealization.”(4) “At sufficiently high doses, users may experience what is called the "K-hole", a state of dissociation with visual and auditory hallucination.”(5) “its hallucinatory effects are relatively short in duration, lasting approximately 30 to 60 minutes.”(6) “Most of the ketamine illegally distributed in the United States is diverted or stolen from legitimate sources, particularly veterinary clinics, or smuggled into the United States from Mexico.” (7)

### Fentanyl:

“Fentanyl, also spelled fentanil, is a highly potent synthetic piperidine opioid drug primarily used as an analgesic. Because fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, its primary clinical utility is in pain management for cancer patients and those recovering from painful surgical operations.”(8) “Fentanyl is also used as a sedative.(9)” “Depending on the method of delivery, fentanyl can be very fast acting and ingesting a relatively small quantity can cause overdose.”(10) “Non-medical use of fentanyl by individuals without opioid tolerance can be very dangerous and has resulted in numerous deaths. Even those with opiate tolerances are at high risk for overdoses.”(11) “Like all opioids, the effects of fentanyl can be reversed with [naloxone](#), or other opiate antagonists. Naloxone is increasingly available to the public. Long acting or sustained release opioids may require repeat dosage. Illicitly synthesized fentanyl powder has also appeared on the United States market. Because of the extremely high strength of pure fentanyl powder, it is very difficult to dilute appropriately, and often the resulting mixture may be far too strong and, therefore, very dangerous.”(12)

### Combination of Fentanyl and Ketamine:

“Using ketamine together with fentanyl may increase side effects such as dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, difficulty concentrating, excessive sedation, and respiratory depression.(13)” “...difficulty breathing, low blood pressure, increased sedation, coma, and death.”(14)

### TN Scientific Fentanyl Test Strips:

TN Scientific has been the main supplier to RestPit.org for the past several years of substance testing supplies. RestPit has found, with direct comparison to others on the market, that TN Scientifics Fentanyl Test Strips are more accurate and less prone to

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false positives than others. Some of the other strips on the market will test positive for Fentanyl when the substance is in fact Methamphetamine.

<https://www.tnscientific.com/>

### **Thoughts:**

In my multiple years of experience testing substances I have never found Fentanyl in a sample of Ketamine until this incident. Ketamine is generally redirected from pharmaceutical supply chains into the black market. The general assumption was that Ketamine did not cross paths with other illicit drugs in the supply chain. Ketamine is very difficult to manufacture and requires pharmaceutical trade secrets to do so. To my limited knowledge there are no clandestine Ketamine laboratories. On the other hand, Fentanyl manufacturing is known to be somewhat easy to do with readily available precursor chemicals. Initially black market Fentanyl was primarily manufactured in Chinese laboratories and then shipped to other countries. It is now known that there are clandestine laboratories making Fentanyl in Mexico. It is generally believed that cross contamination is the reason for Fentanyl in other drugs such as Cocaine. This probably occurs due to poor techniques by unqualified/untrained suppliers cutting cocaine on the same surfaces used to adulterate Heroin with Fentanyl. **I am now very concerned that black market Ketamine is being contaminated with Fentanyl at some point in the supply chain.**

### **Conclusions:**

1. **Always** test your black market substances.
2. Use the **Buddy System**. Do not use substances alone. You cannot revive yourself once unconscious, hence the need for the buddy system.
3. Do not rely on prior history of supplier or substance as evidence for uncontaminated substances.
4. Have Naloxone/Narcan on hand and know how and when to give it.
5. Avoid risky situations and locations when using substances. E.g. sitting or even better lying, not in or near bodies of water (tub, pool, lake ect.), DO NOT Operate vehicles or heavy machinery. Avoid doing or taking substance with people you do not know or trust.

**These conclusions are by no means a complete list of safety measures**

Humans have sought to alter their consciousness as long as we have walked this earth. No laws or punishments will change that and self-determination should not be a death sentence.

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The “Drug War” and the punitive system of managing substance use has failed Humanity and promotes and supports an unregulated black market and the organizations that kill and manipulate people for profit. An inexpensive regulated drug supply with limited barriers to access would save countless lives.

Stay Safe,  
Scott

Scott Barr RN  
Chief of Operations  
RestPit.org

### **Further Reading:**

For a great reference on the subject of drug use and safer practices I recommend. The Drug Users Bible [Extended Edition]: Harm Reduction, Risk Mitigation, Personal Safety – September 11, 2022 by Dominic Milton Trott (Author) Publisher : MxZero Publishing (September 11, 2022) Language : English Paperback : 638 pages ISBN-10 : 0995593698 ISBN-13 : 978-0995593695

### **Disclosures:**

TN Scientific has donated harm reduction supplies to RestPit.org. RestPit has also purchased supplies from TN Scientific and other harm reduction related businesses. RestPit does not receive any financial compensation for any of the mentioned supplies or educational materials in this statement.

RestPit is a 501c(3) charitable organization. RestPit provides harm reduction services, supplies and peer to peer support at music related events.

### **References:**

Ketamine:

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- (2). White LD, Hodsdon A, An GH, Thang C, Melhuish TM, Vlok R (November 2019). "Induction opioids for cesarean section under general anesthesia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials". *International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia*. **40**: 4–13. doi:10.1016/j.ijoa.2019.04.007. hdl:10072/416502. PMID 31230994. S2CID 181816438. Archived from the original on 22 May 2022. Retrieved 23 May 2022.
- (3). Morgan CJ, Curran HV (January 2012). "Ketamine use: a review". *Addiction*. **107**

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- (4). Giannini AJ, Underwood NA, Condon M (November 2000). "Acute ketamine intoxication treated by haloperidol: a preliminary study". *American Journal of Therapeutics*. **7** (6): 389–91. doi:10.1097/00045391-200007060-00008. PMID 11304647.
- (5). Giannini AJ (1999). *Drug Abuse*. Los Angeles: Health Information Press. p. 104. ISBN 978-1-885987-11-2.
- (6&7) <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Ketamine-2020.pdf>

### Fentanyl:

- (8). "Fentanyl". *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. 7 October 2022. Retrieved 20 February 2023.
- (9). Ramos-Matos CF, Bistas KG, Lopez-Ojeda W (2022). "Fentanyl". *StatPearls*. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing. PMID 29083586. Retrieved 20 February 2023.
- (10). "Fentanyl". *National Institute on Drug Abuse*. 21 December 2021. Retrieved 20 February 2023.
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- (12). Mars SG, Rosenblum D, Ciccarone D (May 2019). "Illicit fentanyls in the opioid street market: desired or imposed?". *Addiction*. **114** (5): 774–780. doi:10.1111/add.14474. PMC 6548693. PMID 30512204.

### Combination of Fentanyl and Ketamine:

- (13). <https://www.drugs.com/drug-interactions/fentanyl-with-ketamine-1074-0-1411-0.html>
- (14). <https://www.webmd.com/interaction-checker/default.htm>