

April 25, 2018**Health Advisory**

**CDC COCA Clinical Advisory Report Released:
Potential Vitamin K-Dependent Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated
with Synthetic Cannabinoids Use**

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an updated Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Advisory on April 23, 2018. This report is related to the recent presentation of at least 160 people with serious unexplained bleeding (coagulopathy) to healthcare facilities in nine states. Laboratory investigations have identified a potential connection between this serious unexplained bleeding and the use of synthetic cannabinoids.

The index case was identified in Illinois on March 8, 2018. Since then, people have presented with serious unexplained bleeding conditions in Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. None of the people reporting with this condition were on anticoagulants or were exposed to rat poison containing a long-acting anti-coagulant brodifacoum. However, their work-up and their response to treatment with fresh frozen plasma and high doses of vitamin K was consistent with long-acting vitamin K-dependent antagonist toxicity. There have been three fatalities reported.

Laboratory investigations have confirmed brodifacoum exposure in at least 60 people. At least seven synthetic cannabinoid product samples related to this outbreak have tested positive for brodifacoum, and at least one synthetic cannabinoid product was tested positive for both synthetic cannabinoid AB-FUBINACA and brodifacoum.

Recommendations

- Screen patients who present with serious unexplained bleeding for a history of use of synthetic cannabinoids such as K2, Spice, and AK47.
- Look for clinical signs of coagulopathy including bruising, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, bleeding disproportionate to injury, vomiting, coughing up blood, blood in urine, and so forth.
- Consider if the individual may have a Vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy.
- Check the individual's coagulation profile.
- Contact your local Poison Control Information Center (1-800-222-1222) for questions on diagnostic testing and management of these patients.
- Report suspected cases to the state health department, including any similar cases encountered since February 1, 2018. Reports can be made by calling 701.328.2378 or 1.800.472.2180.
- Contact the department by calling the numbers identified above if you have questions related to the information in this Health Advisory.

More Information on this Advisory

- The complete CDC COLA Outbreak Alert can be viewed at:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/1eb9503>

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##