



## SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

NITAZENES  
FENTANYLS

Lately, the media has been reporting more frequently on synthetic opioids, nitazenes, and also fentanyls. But...

### ...WHY ARE THEY CURRENTLY A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION?

For several years now, there has been a growing number of **drug-related emergencies** in Europe linked to synthetic opioids. These substances are either used intentionally or consumed unknowingly, as they are mixed into heroin, oxycodone tablets, or benzodiazepine pills.

### ...WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT?

- **synthetic substances**
- act similarly to natural opioids (e.g., morphine) or semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., heroin)
- **can be many times more potent than morphine or heroin** — in some cases up to a thousand times stronger
- some are used **medically** (e.g., tramadol, fentanyl, methadone)
- others are **largely unresearched**, such as fentanyl analogues and nitazenes

### ...WHY ARE THEY CONSIDERED DANGEROUS?

Because some of these substances are so potent, it's **difficult to determine the right dose**. Even very small amounts can lead to an overdose.

An overdose is **life-threatening** and can cause fatal respiratory failure!

For some substances, there is no reliable information about their strength or the risks they pose to humans.

### ...WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE HARM WHEN USING?

Due to their strong effects, we advise against using synthetic opioids. However, if you decide to use them despite the risks, please keep the following in mind:

- Have your substance **tested**, for example, by checkit!
- Only consume a **small amount** and wait to feel the effects.
- When using other opioids (e.g., heroin) and benzodiazepines, be aware of **unusually strong or unexpected effects**. They could be contaminated or adulterated.
- Do **not use alone** and look out for each other.
- Call **emergency services** if someone feels unwell.
- Use your **own clean consumption equipment**.



- **Avoid mixing substances**, especially those with calming effects (e.g., opioids, sleeping pills, GHB, alcohol, Lyrica®...).
- **Naloxone** can temporarily reverse overdose symptoms until emergency help arrives; if possible, get trained on its use (e.g., at Jedmayer).
- After a period of abstinence, the risk of **overdose** is especially high.
- Regular use can lead to **addiction**.

More information on synthetic opioids here:  
[checkit.wien/en/substanz/synthetische-opioide/](https://checkit.wien/en/substanz/synthetische-opioide/)

