



Alert! Nitazenes found in Heroin sample

On 20 April 2026, we detected a high amount of **diacetylmorphine** (heroin) and **two yet unidentified nitazenes** in a sample submitted as heroin for drug checking. The sample was obtained in Vienna. The effects were described as unusually strong with a longer than expected duration.

Submitted as: Heroin

Purchased in: Vienna

Contents: **Diacetylmorphine (over 50%), two unidentified Nitazenes,** 6-Monoacetylmorphine, Acetylcodeine, Morphine, Noscapine, Papaverine, Paracetamol, Caffeine

Nitazenes are a group of synthetic opioids. Their potency is often many times higher than that of heroin, which makes accurate dosing difficult to nearly impossible. The use of high doses can lead to a reduction in respiratory rate, potentially resulting in life-threatening respiratory depression.

Across Europe, reports of **drug-related emergencies** associated with synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyls, 'orphines', and nitazenes, have been increasing in recent years. These substances are sold both as such and are also detected as **unexpected constituents or adulterants**, for example in heroin, oxycodone tablets, or benzodiazepine tablets.

Due to their high potency and the associated elevated risk of an overdose, we advise against using synthetic opioids!

Risk Reduction

However, if you decide to use them despite the risks, please note:

- **Use drug checking, if possible!** You cannot determine the contents of a powder or tablet by its appearance.
- If drug checking is not available to you, consume **only small amounts** and wait for the effects.
- Do **not use alone** and look out for each other.
- Call **emergency services (144)** if someone feels unwell.
- **Avoid mixing substances**, especially those with calming effects (e.g., opioids, sleeping pills, alcohol) .
- In the event of an overdose, **naloxone** can temporarily relieve symptoms until the ambulance arrives: if possible, get trained (e.g. at Jedmayer).

More information on synthetic opioids: <https://checkit.wien/en/substanz/synthetische-opioide/>



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