

**AKA: BENZIMIDAZOLE
OPIOIDS, PROTONITAZENE,
ETONITAZENE, ISONITAZENE,
METONITAZENE, ETODESINITAZENE
(ETAZENE), CLONITAZENE,
N-DESETHYLETONITAZENE + MANY
MORE!**

NITAZENES

This resource is produced by Hi-Ground
and CAHMA.

In an unregulated market it's impossible
to know the purity or dose of any
substance, educate yourself and practice
harm reduction to reduce this risks.

For more information visit:

www.hi-ground.org

<https://www.cahma.org.au/article/safer-using-nitazenes/>

Hi-Ground is a program of QuIVAA

Hi-Ground

Nitazenes, also known as benzimidazole opioids, are a highly potent class of synthetic opioids which vary widely in potency. Some nitazenes, including protonitazene and etonitazene, are more potent than fentanyl and thus pose a very high risk of overdose. Nitazenes were first synthesised in the late 1950s but never reached the market as medicines. Since the early 2010s, synthetic opioids have flooded the drug market in the United States and have significantly contributed to opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Beginning in 2019, nitazenes have been detected in forensic laboratories across the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

ADMINISTRATION

Most commonly swallowed but can also be shelved (rectal), snorted or injected (IV or IM liquids).

DURATION OF EFFECTS

Duration and Half Life is dependent on the type of nitazene and differentiate between onset, peak and total durations. Research the specific one you are taking. The duration of effects may also differ depending on the routes of administration.

Even though the apparent effects of the drug may have worn off, nitazenes can stay active for a long period of time (up to a couple of days) depending on what type. Do your research and remember this if taking other drugs!

EFFECTS

The effects of nitazenes are similar to other opioids, but they can be anywhere from 2 to 1000 times more potent than morphine. The effects of nitazenes vary from person to person but can include

MOST COMMON EFFECTS

Pain Relief, Euphoria, Feeling of wellbeing, Contentment, Decreased heart rate, Decreased blood pressure, Warm sensations in extremities, Lethargy, Drowsiness, Constipation, Relief of anxiety, A 'rush' of warmth, Confusion, Constricted ("pinpoint") pupil, Slowed breathing

LESS COMMON EFFECTS

Unconsciousness, Vomiting, Nausea, Sensitivity to light, Respiratory depression / failure, Muscle spasms, Death

RARE COMMON EFFECTS

Risk of coma, Bluish fingers, toes, lips, Brain damage due to respiratory depression

POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS

These effects are possible with extended use:
Poor dental health with gum swelling and damaged teeth, Severe constipation, Malnutrition, Dependency and risk of acute withdrawal symptoms, Weakened immune system, Insomnia

DRUG CHECKING

Even with specialised chemistry equipment, detecting nitazenes in drug samples can be difficult since they are often present in extremely small amounts (e.g., a few milligrams). Unfortunately, fentanyl test strips are unable to detect nitazenes.

Nitazene overdoses in Australia have been linked to counterfeit pharmaceutical pills such as Xanax, Kalma pills and Oxycodone. They have also shown up in samples of heroin and ketamine.

SAFER DOSING

The active dose depends on the exact nitazene being ingested which is extremely difficult to verify. The relative potency of nitazenes compared to morphine is roughly as follows: Etonitazene > isonitazene > protonitazene > metonitazene > etodesnitazene (etazene) > clonitazene > morphine. The strength of the dose also depends on the route of administration, with intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous injection being more potent than oral administration.

SAFER USING

- Use around friends/people you trust and in a safe environment - somewhere you feel comfortable
- Wait at least 30mins after eating before taking.
- Each nitazene is different, and strength can vary greatly so start with a small dose.
- When prescribed by a doctor, medications come with dosage instructions.
- **Carry naloxone.** Depending on your state you can either buy naloxone over the counter in a pharmacy with/without a prescription. QuHNS's NSP service also offer free naloxone training and then you receive a free take home one with you.
- If you're taking the drug orally, use as per recommended packaging if available, otherwise start with a very small amount.

SAFER INJECTING

Use around friends/people you trust and in a safe environment - somewhere you feel comfortable

- Injecting nitazenes may pose a greater risk of overdose as the lethal dose may be many times smaller than when ingested orally
- Avoid Blood Borne Viruses by using new & sterile syringes & equipment.
- Use sterile water to mix up.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after, you can also use an alcohol swab to clean your fingertips.
- Alcohol wipes can reduce the risk of skin infections if they are used correctly. For maximum effect, swab once, in one direction on the injection site, and leave to dry naturally.
- Dispose of syringes & equipment responsibly in a yellow disposal bin, all NSPs have bins available.