



ASSIST Drug information card

Phenethylamines

Street names:

N-Bomb, Nexus, Tryptasy, Bom-25, 2C-I-NBOMe, 25-I-NBOMe, 25I, Pandora, Solaris, Divination, Wizard, Smiley Paper, Flux, Fifa

Price guide:

Refer to EDRS/IDRS

What is it?

Phenethylamines are a class of naturally occurring central nervous system stimulants. Phenethylamines therefore include both natural and synthetic substances, which include MDMA and other similar compounds. In that respect, phenethylamines mimic the effects of Ecstasy, MDMA, and methamphetamine, while some also have hallucinogenic properties.

Phenethylamines include common psychedelic and stimulant substances used recreationally in some circles, including 2C-x series (e.g., 2C-B, 2C-P, 2C-I), 4-FA, NBOMe series (25I, 25C, 25B), DO-x (DOI, DOC), Benzofurans (Bromo-Dragonfly), PMMA.

While phenethylamines have produce stimulant and/or hallucinogenic effects, there is no common mechanism of action or biological target that is common to all members of the class.

What does it look like?

Given their broad categorization, phenethylamines come in a range of different forms. For example, NBOMes are typically similar in appearance to LSD (e.g., blotting paper strips), though are sometimes available in clear liquid, white powder or pressed into small ecstasy-like pill form. Whereas compounds form the 2C-x series are also commonly available in powdered, pill or capsule forms.

How is it usually taken?

Depending on the form, phenethylamines may be snorted (powder), swallowed (capsules, pills), placed under the tongue (strips), smoked (powder), or inserted rectally (pills).

Immediate effects:

The immediate effects of phenethylamines largely depends on the specific substance ingested. However, the effects of phenethylamines are felt more rapidly if smoked, or slightly delayed if snorted or swallowed. Depending on how much is used, the effects can last between 2-4 hours. Phenethylamines may produce some of the following effects:

- Feelings of oneness with the universe
- Strong visual hallucinations
- Kaleidoscopic colours and visual distortions (e.g., light and colour trails)
- Powerful rushing of sensations
- Auditory hallucinations or buzzing sounds

- Radical shift in perspective
- Increased heart-rate and blood pressure and hot flushes
- Distortions of time
- Dry mouth and dehydration
- Jaw clenching and teeth grinding and muscle pain in face
- Pupil dilation
- Decreased appetite
- Euphoria and a sense of wellbeing
- Increased empathy

Higher dose or binge use may result in the following:

- Nervousness, anxiety, paranoia or a sense of overwhelming fear
- Hallucinations, agitation and aggressiveness
- Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting
- Damage to nasal or rectal passage due to snorting or shelving
- Stroke
- Overheating (hyperthermia)
- Psychosis or psychotic episodes.
- Overdose, organ failure, seizures, coma, death.

Overdose from phenethylamines ingestion is a real risk. Due to its high potency, even small doses can lead to toxic effects, including organ failure (e.g., cardiac arrest), seizures, respiratory arrest and/or death.

Long-term health effects:

Long term health effects of phenethylamines are unclear. However, some cases of long-term phenethylamine use have occurred with the following psychiatric symptoms, including:

- Drug-induced psychosis and hallucinogen persisting perception disorder (HPPD)
- Mood disturbances, disorganized thoughts

Mixing phenethylamines with other drugs:

Mixing phenethylamines with other stimulants (e.g., methamphetamine, cocaine or MDMA) can place additional stress on the heart and can lead to stroke, and increase the risk of drug-induced psychosis. Mixing with amphetamines can also increase the risk of negative thought-loops.

Mixing phenethylamines with other hallucinogens can greatly enhance the dissociative effects, which can be unpredictable and uncomfortable.

Mixing with depressants (e.g., alcohol or cannabis) can exacerbate and extend the cognitive and sensory effects of phenethylamines and increase the risk of toxicity.

In all cases, mixing phenethylamines with other substances is strongly discouraged.

Other things to consider:

- Phenethylamines are a cheap and commonly used substitute for other stimulants, including methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine. Individuals may unknowingly use phenethylamines when taking LSD or other hallucinogens.
- Longer term use is also more likely to result in more severe longer term physical and mental health problems.
- Many people have reported that phenethylamines can create an urge or strong desire to re-dose the substance; leading to faster rate of tolerance and dependence.
- Phenethylamine use has led to a number of instances of drug-induced psychosis and death.

Harm reduction advice:

There is no safe level of phenethylamines use. However, if you choose to use, you might try the following steps to reduce your risk of harm:

- Be vigilant with your dose. Start with a small amount and allow the drug time to work before considering re-dosing.
- Use in a safe environment with people that you trust.
- Have a person that you trust, preferably an experienced user present especially if it is your first time. It is a good idea for this person to remain sober, and if you feel unsettled during the experience, let them know.
- Eat, drink water, sleep, rest and recover
- Try to avoid using regularly to reduce the risk of long term effects and dependence
- Try to avoid bingeing as it can worsen the comedown effects and increase the risk of drug-induced psychosis
- Phenethylamines are a powerful sexual stimulant, so practice safe sex
- If smoking, use safe paraphernalia (e.g., a pipe); try to avoid aluminium foil or light bulbs as these can increase the risk of toxicity
- If snorting, avoid sharing equipment. Sharing equipment increases your risk of blood-borne viruses and illnesses entering the nasal passage, including tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS.

For additional information and resources, please visit [assistportal.com.au](https://www.assistportal.com.au)