



Pharmacology and Toxicology of New Psychoactive Substances: Focus on Novel Synthetic Opioids

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Message from the Guest Editor

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are a broad variety of drugs not regulated by present legislation. The first wave of NPS came to Europe in the early 2000s in the form of synthetic cannabinoids followed by synthetic cathinones and phenethylamines. From 2016, a rise in the availability of novel synthetic opioids (NSO) was registered in Europe. NSO are the most dangerous NPS since they mimic morphine and heroin and are many times more potent than these opioids in producing acute toxicity. Moreover, they are effective by the intranasal and oral route. Consequently, their use is likely to become the primary source of NPS-associated deaths in Europe, given their increasing prevalence, as opposed to that of other NPS classes. This Special Issue aims to provide an up-to-date overview of pharmacology, structure–activity relationships, and toxicology of NPS and NSO, and the detrimental effects associated with their intake.





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