

Tianeptine – Also known as “Gas Station Heroin”

According to Tianeptine.com, the drug is a, “neuroprotective antidepressant that reverses the neurological damage and lasting misery that stems from uncontrolled stress.” This means the drug is able to offset the characteristics of depression and anxiety by boosting the mood and creating euphoric feelings. Although the drug is legal in some other countries, it has not been FDA approved for use in the U.S. Despite this, much research continues to occur as the FDA monitors the use of the drug.

Tianeptine is distributed in 25 to 50 mg per dose to be effective and is best taken orally, although it is available intravenously. It works by increasing the brain’s serotonin uptake, to lower stress levels and promote better moods when taken in low dosages. Additionally, it functions to assist anxiety and depressive disorders by producing mood-boosting dopamine by activating the brain’s Opioid receptors. Interestingly enough, the dopamine effect of the drug has been comparable to kratom and some Opioids, hence its poor reputation in the states.

Convenience Store and Vape Shop Drug Tianeptine

*Employee Assistance Program
Educational Series*

Archbold Memorial
Employee Assistance Program
902 Cairo Road Thomasville, GA 31792
229.228.2210 • 1.877.EAP.ARCH



Tianeptine Risks and Side Effects

Sometimes referred to as Tianna, Tianeptine sodium powder, Tianna Green, Tianna Red, Tianna White, and Tianeptine sulfate, the drug is considered highly addictive by the FDA. Recent stories of Tianeptine use have caused health professionals to examine addictive properties of the drug and its potential for harm. Not only does long-term use of the drug create withdrawal effects, but it can open the door to someone seeking other Opioids or Opioid-like substances.

Individuals who have taken the drug have combined it with other drugs. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report noted individuals battling side effects of Tianeptine combined the drug with alcohol, Opioids, Benzodiazepines, or Phenibut. When the drug is mixed with other drugs, overdoses are more likely, along with other health complications. Secondly, Tianeptine could produce the same effects of Opioid addiction as one develops a tolerance or dependence.

As a result, when one exceeds the recommended Tianeptine dose or develops a tolerance, he or she can experience Opioid-like addiction, side effects, and withdrawals. Reported side effects of Tianeptine are still being evaluated. So far, side effects range from, but are not limited to:

- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Stomach aches
- Developing a tolerance
- Developing a dependence
- Tianeptine withdrawal
- Overdose (particularly if combined with other substances)
- Drowsiness
- Coma
- Confusion
- Death

In addition to the above side effects, cardiovascular, neurological, and respiratory symptoms have been reported as side effects. Because withdrawal is likely to occur due to long-term use or frequent high dosages, going cold turkey or self-tapering may not be as successful compared to getting detox or tapering in a medical facility. If you or a loved one needs rehab-related help, contact a treatment provider to explore available options.

Tianeptine Withdrawal and Signs of Abuse

Tianeptine produces a variety of withdrawal symptoms. The severity of withdrawal will vary based on the time of ingestion, the frequency, dosage, and whether or not other substances have been involved.

- Anxiety
- Appetite loss
- Yawning
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Confusion
- Cramps
- Depression
- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Flu-like symptoms
- Insomnia
- Moodiness
- Suicidal ideation
- Tremors
- Diarrhea