

CASE NOTES #4: KETAMINE & HEROIN DRUG DEATH

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We present a post-mortem case analysis of a 24 year old single male who imbibed ketamine and heroin. The decedent had a history of recreational use of ketamine, but not heroin.

The decedent was discovered by his parents in their residence. Investigation found bottles of unknown pills of various sizes,

some empty and others near-full, located at the scene. Autopsy did not reveal any medically significant findings.

Comprehensive analysis was performed on various post-mortem tissues, including femoral blood, urine, stomach content and liver.

All submitted tissues and evidence (pills) were subject to standard analytical screening and mass spectrometry confirmation protocols. Positive findings of the analysis are as follows.

The Medical Examiner ruled the death accidental.

Blood

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Morphine (Free) | 0.20 mg/L |
| Ketamine | 0.32 mg/L |
| Norketamine | 0.18 mg/L |

Liver

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Ketamine | 0.24 mg/Kg |
| Norketamine | 0.72 mg/Kg |

Stomach Contents

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Total weight received: | 244 gms |
| Ketamine | 62.0 mg/Kg |
| Norketamine | 46.8 mg/Kg |

Urine

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Ketamine | 3.00 mg/L |
| Norketamine | 5.20 mg/L |
| Codeine | 0.45 mg/L |
| Morphine (free) | 4.40 mg/L |
| 6-mono-acetyl-morphine | 1.35 mg/L |

Pills

Positive for acetaminophen and alprazolam