

TIANEPTINE

AKA “GAS STATION HEROIN”

What is Tianeptine?

Tianeptine is an antidepressant being sold in gas stations and convenience stores in New Jersey. It is not FDA approved or regulated for use in the United States. Also known as “ZaZa,” “Neptune’s Fix,” and “Pegasus Silver,” tianeptine is being inaccurately marketed as a safer alternative to opioids and a dietary supplement to treat a variety of health ailments.

Risks of Using Tianeptine

The New Jersey Poison Control Center has recently identified a cluster of tianeptine poisonings. Tianeptine exposure can cause life-threatening symptoms, including seizures, coma, and death.



Image courtesy of New Jersey Poison Information and Education System

Common symptoms associated with tianeptine exposure include:

- Agitation
- Increased blood pressure
- Sweating
- Drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid heartbeat
- Confusion
- Slow or stopped breathing

Tianeptine Withdrawal

Repeated use of tianeptine can cause withdrawal symptoms when use is stopped. Symptoms of tianeptine withdrawal include agitation, nausea, anxiety, diarrhea, and chills. **Some cases of withdrawal have been severe, with patients requiring intubation.**



If You Suspect Tianeptine Poisoning

- Call **9-1-1** and stay with the person in need of medical attention.
- Carry naloxone (also known as Narcan, the opioid overdose antidote) and use it if a person has slow breathing.
- Avoid mixing substances.
- Avoid using substances alone.

Resources

- **Harm Reduction Centers** provide sterile syringes and other safer use supplies, including naloxone. Scan the QR code for a listing of centers in New Jersey.
- **REACHNJ** is a 24/7 hotline available to anyone who is looking for help with overcoming a substance use disorder. Call **844-732-2465**.
- Call or text **1-877-4NARCAN** for free, anonymous naloxone through the mail.

