

Phenibut abuse

OS

Decreased consciousness, agitation and delirium: 2 case reports

Two patients experienced decreased consciousness, agitation and delirium following recreational use of phenibut; one patient had also ingested an overdose of phenibut.

A 20-year-old woman presented to an emergency department at 09:53 hours; she had been found with a decreased level of consciousness at 07:00 hours on the same day. The evening before, she had ingested phenibut that had been purchased on the internet. On presentation, she was quite sedated. She woke briefly when stimulated, and she appeared delirious. She was observed for several hours and transferred to an emergency short stay unit. The next day, she was awake and no longer confused. She reported ingesting phenibut 25g in three doses the day before presentation, for recreational purposes. She was subsequently discharged from hospital.

A 38-year-old man presented to an emergency department in an agitated delirium. In the 24 hours prior to presentation, he was thought to have consumed phenibut [*dose not stated*], alcohol and tetrahydrocannabinol. He received droperidol and ketamine for sedation, with a modest effect. He awoke a few hours later in a somewhat agitated, uncontrollable state. Subsequently, he was intubated and managed in an ICU, where he was ventilated overnight. The next day, he awoke with a normal sensorium. He reported that he had taken phenibut for recreational purposes.

Author comment: *"We report two cases of the use of phenibut, an agent with structural similarity to baclofen, for recreational effect and the subsequent toxicity produced."*

Downes MA, et al. Acute behavioural disturbance associated with phenibut purchased via an Internet supplier. *Clinical Toxicology* 53: 373 abstr. 304, No. 4, May 2015. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.3109/15563650.2015.1024953> - Australia

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