

Any Lab Test Now

EXPANDED SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID PANEL

DESCRIPTION

Synthetic Marijuana, called K2 or Spice, use has become widespread in the US, especially by those trying to avoid detection during drug testing. The drug compound was initially developed in a laboratory to study the effects of the active ingredient of marijuana, THC, on the brain. The formula for the drug, named JWH-018 in the lab, was soon marketed as a legal substitute for marijuana.

K2/Spice mimics the effect of THC but is usually much stronger than marijuana and can cause unexpected side effects such as seizures, hallucinations, psychotic episodes, severe kidney damage and heart attacks. It soon became readily available, as “natural incense” or “potpourri”, online and in herbal smoke shops. Synthetic Marijuana is now the third most reported substance used by US high school students (11%). The DEA banned the initial 5 compounds in 2011 but many others are being made and drug tests for the compounds are not included on standard drug panels. Because drug “chemists” continue to create new variations of K2/Spice the DEA continues to add new synthetic cannabinoid drug compounds to its list of banned substances. In July of 2012 the DEA expanded the list of synthetic cannabinoids to 20 drug compounds.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

Do you suspect that your teen is using K2 or Spice or is acting “high” but tests negative for marijuana or other drugs? Are you an employer who needs to establish a Drug-Free Workplace, especially for high risk and safety positions?

K2/Spice’s easy access and exclusion from standard drug panels makes it attractive for young people and those who know they will be tested. While the DEA’s ban on many of the existing K2/Spice compounds has reduced the number of emergency room visits caused by smoking them, the number is still significant. There are an average of 250 emergency room visits per month due to K2/Spice and the majority of these are for patients between the ages of 12-24.

The dangers of K2/Spice are very real. If you suspect someone is using K2/Spice, you expect to be tested for the drug for employment or are an employer looking to add this test to your Drug-Free Workplace program, this test provides the information you need to make the right choices.

OTHER RELEVANT LAB TESTS

You may want to consider a Urine Drug Screen, Hair Drug Test, Alcohol Effect Panel or a wellness panel such as the Basic Check-Up Panel.

WRITTEN BY:

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY CALL 1.800.384.4567

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