

In the last 6 years, the comparative pharmacology of stimulant drugs has been studied in order to assess the abuse potential of these drugs relative to dextroamphetamine and to provide a basis for scheduling decisions under the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

The principal underlying assessment for abuse potential is the identification of a prototype drug which has been abused and is judged to be a danger to the public health.

All drugs having a similar mode of action and sharing the same profile of pharmacologic effects are viewed as having a potential for abuse.

Amphetamine, the prototypic drug for antiobesity agents, produces characteristic and reproducible alterations in mood, feeling states, and perception in our addict population.

Volunteers can distinguish these amphetamine-induced subjective states from those produced by agents such as morphine or pentobarbital.

One type of change is "euphoria" or feelings of well-being and elation which are felt to be related to the ability of amphetamine to initiate and maintain drugtaking.

In addition, amphetamine produces other characteristic effects including increases in blood pressure, decreases in pulse rate, increases in body temperature, decreases in the amount of food eaten, and a slight increase in pupil size.

From our studies, d-methamphetamine, methylphenidate, phenmetrazine, l-ephedrine, diethylpropion, phentermine, and benzphetamine all produce typical amphetamine-like effects.

These drugs differ from one another in milligram-for-milligram potencies. In sufficient doses, however, all can produce the same degree of effects.

Please note the following table.

[The table follows:]

<i>Equivalent euphorogenic doses</i>	
	<i>Milligrams</i>
Subcutaneous studies:	
d-amphetamine	10
d-methamphetamine	10
Methylphenidate	20
Phenmetrazine	40
Ephedrine	50
Diethylpropion	140
d-amphetamine (oral)	10
Oral studies:	
d-amphetamine	10
Phentermine	20
Benzphetamine	50
l-ephedrine	50
Diethylpropion	70

Dr. JASINSKI. In contrast, our studies also indicate that the appetite suppressants fenfluramine and chlorphentermine are not typical amphetamine-like agents.

Fenfluramine in low doses can produce feelings of well-being or elation.

Large doses more characteristically produce unpleasant subjective states.