



Alert from the NDEWS Web Monitoring Team: Online mentions of 7-OH

What was found? Dr. Christopher McCurdy, an internationally recognized kratom expert, alerted the NDEWS team to the presence of synthetically created 7-OH pharmaceuticals being marketed as kratom products. In response, the NDEWS team analyzed Reddit to find mentions of 7-OH. Analysis of online discussions indicates a recent increase in interest and discussion. Discussion remained relatively stable until November 2023 when an upward trend started to emerge. Since March 2024, there has been a strong upward trend with an over 300% increase in discussion. This sudden surge in interest raises concerns about the potential for increased misuse of this potent compound.

What is 7-OH? 7-hydroxymitragynine or 7-OH is an opioid-receptor binding alkaloid that occurs naturally in trace amounts in kratom leaves

How is it being discussed? Reddit users report that 7-OH provides subjective effects similar to prescription opioids. Some Reddit users report developing a dependence within just two weeks of use, as well as severe and long-lasting withdrawal symptoms. Users report that single doses can be highly potent. There are also concerns about the safety and purity of 7-OH tablets, as they may be cut with other substances. Many discussants report that they purchased 7-OH for chronic pain management.

Expect Insight: "These new products are not kratom and are synthetically produced to generate high levels of 7-hydroxymitragynine. 7-Hydroxymitragynine is a highly selective opioid that does not behave like the naturally occurring alkaloids in the plant. It is essentially an unregulated synthetic opioid that is untested in humans and creates a significant risk to public health." -Dr. Christopher McCurdy

Drug Terms Searched: 7-hydroxymitragynine, 7-OH, 7HMZ, 7(omega)MZ